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Authorities' assistance is sought to safeguard huts. PAGE 3

NMI Democrats cast votes for DNC chair. PAGE 10

Closer ties to fight skimming, bank fraud

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Closer cooperation among Guam Banking Association members and other institutions could help them fight off skimmers and other bank fraud.

GBA is a group of banking and financial institutions in the region. Bank of Guam, Bank of Hawaii, Bank Pacific, and First Hawaiian Bank are some of its members.

FHB was a recent victim of skimmers; some of the bank's clients' accounts were compromised. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has a continuing investigation, resulting in arrests and prosecutions.

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'Allow IPI extension'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Certain considerations could be made in granting the request of Imperial Pacific International CNMI LLC to amend the casino license agreement to extend the implementation of deadlines, according to Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan).

Deleon Guerrero, the House Gaming Committee chairman, said

See EXTENSION on Page 4

A tower crane lifts a bronze structure for installation atop the building of the Imperial Pacific Casino and Resort project in Garapan in this photo taken a week ago. If completed, the four-story casino building features a Beaux-Arts architectural style of the famed Casino de Monte Carlo. It was reported that the soft opening of the new casino will be on March 31, 2017.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

PAL moves to seasonal flights

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Philippine Airlines, which is represented by low-cost Philippine Airline Express on Saipan, has downgraded its service to seasonal flights—as opposed to the former weekly flights—due to the lack of demand.

Flights booked March 16 onwards will either be fully refunded or be rebooked in the new available schedules. Twice weekly operation to Saipan would continue only up to March 25.

In an email from PAL external communications head Marie Cielo

See PAL on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ana L. Igitol is celebrating her 103rd birthday today, March 3, 2017.

Ana Igitol turns 103

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The family of Ana L. Igitol, who fondly calls her "Na," is celebrating her 103rd birthday today, March 3, 2017.

In her lifetime, Igitol, who has 14 children, 17 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, and 10 great-great-grandchildren, has survived a world war, the death of eight children, and anxiety over her husband's war-related injury.

Her son, Pete L. Igitol, said his mom's oldest memory was about surviving a shipwreck while coming from the Eastern Caroline to Saipan.

He attributes her long life to hard work (she farms, fishes, bakes, etc.),

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A North Korean man will be released due to lack of evidence in the attack on Kim Jong Nam.

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Russian-backed rebels are taking over scores of factories and mines in eastern Ukraine.

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OFF THE WALL
Rodney Dangerfield made a career out of getting "no respect."

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Local

KCHC is pushing for patient-centered care

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Usually, a patient goes to the doctor for treatment of an illness. The Kagman Community Health Center seeks to upend that common model of healthcare by having patients participate in their own care.

To that end, the center is seeking to obtain certification for Patient Centered Medical Home by mid-2017. PCMH is an approach to modern-day healthcare that involves the patient as a whole. A patient may go to a PCMH as a one-stop provider of healthcare.

The program, which has been in effect at the Kagman Community Health Center since May, is "a new way of approaching healthcare, where patients are invited to participate in their care," according to KCHC Medical Director Katherine Elstun, M.D.

"We want them [patients] to feel like our clinic is their medical home, where they can come with any medical problem. [We want patients to] know they can be cared for and listened to, and all of their health concerns will be addressed at their level," said Elstun, speaking to members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday

Although the concept of a one-stop center for healthcare has yet to be accepted throughout the medical world, KCHC aims to be first clinic to offer this kind of service in the CNMI.

"We would be applying for certification in the spring and hopefully we would get the certification in July or August of this year," said Elstun.

It was not specified which particular certification KCHC would be applying for, but Elstun believes PCMH to be convenient for residents of Kagman, since a number of patients lack access to transportation.

Elstun cited several benefits with a PCMH, including cost savings.

More popular in the mainland, PCMH displayed a 19-percent reduction in emergency room, or ER, visits, fewer hospital admissions, fewer ambulatory sensitive ER visits, and better health environment.

PCMH seeks to be a one-stop shop for healthcare, but with limited healthcare professionals on the island, KCHC partners with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to address their shortcomings when it comes to medical services.

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Authorities' assistance is sought to safeguard huts

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Since a hut burning incident at the Carolinian *utt* earlier this week, Carolinian Affairs executive assistant John Tagabuel has approached authorities in an attempt to secure the area from further harm.

Tagabuel told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that although unsure whether the incident was intentional or an accident, he wishes to "get to the bottom of this" and that any efforts to vandalize the structure must be accounted for.

"The structure itself is iconic, it depicts the old way of living for our Chamorro brothers and sisters and for someone to come in and just disrespect it like that is a slap in the face," said Tagabuel.

The Carolinian *utt* is a complex made up of several traditional huts. The structure burned this week was the largest at the complex.

Tagabuel stressed the economic value of the huts, given that the main source of revenue for the CNMI is tourism. Tagabuel said that a lot of tourists, after visiting Garapan, frequent the area to take pictures and ask about the people of the CNMI.

"It's sad that we have people out there that could [damage a structure as important as this]," he said.

Tagabuel told *Saipan Tribune* that he has already spoken with local authorities to resume their hourly routine of checking the area.

"I don't want another repeat, because this is the second time. The first time was a Carolinian hut [in 2014]," he added.

After looking into their files, Tagabuel said the Taga hut replica cost about $14,000 to $18,000 to make.

Reconstructing the hut is very time-consuming, he said, since the process of remaking the roof involves many other smaller processes, to be as close to ancient times as possible.

"Since a large portion of it has been burned, I think if [the roof] is going to be replaced, it would be better to replace the entire thing," he said.

Damage to the hut is estimated at $2,000.

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ANA

From Page 1

the love of her family, and her cheerful attitude and care for others.

Pete L. Igitol said that religion, education, family, and discipline (respect, good moral character, etc.) are most important to his mother.

Growing up with her, Peter L. Igitol remembers his mom as compassionate, kind, caring, and her love for baking.

"[She] bakes to sell at a store in Tanapag, but gives away half to people she meets on the way to the store," he stated in an email message.

He also remembers her love for baseball (her husband played catcher for the Tanapag team).

"The two of them are always the first at the ballfield and the last to leave, rain or shine!" his email said.

Her love to discipline erring children also brings up a lot of memories for Pete Igitol.

"I was the wild one…she would chase me around the house and ends up crying when she cannot catch up… I would stop and let her give me the belt...ouch!" he laughs.

Another son, David L. Igitol, gives credit to his mom's "cooking" skills.

"I cooked right alongside her, for the family, every free time I got. She would always cook a lot of food and her reasoning was so that there's food to offer should anyone come to visit. Food was the way to their hearts. I thank her for the cooking lessons and, though I hardly cook now, I still can cook for my family," he said in an email response to a series of questions.

Her daughter, Delfina I. Russell, who resides in Michigan with her husband Stanley, said: "One thing that stands out for me was when she was about 68, she decided to go to adult school so she can learn how to speak English. She completed her studies with highest honors. She wanted to be the role model for her children; education was big for both my parents; [she] taught us that making sacrifices for the family will pay off in the end. She is our supermom!"

Another daughter, Rose L. Igitol, said: "I thank our heavenly Father, for giving us such a beautiful set of parents. Their strong belief in their faith, culture, respect and love of family are just some of the values that made our parents who they were, and is, now. Since my father's passing in 1998, Na has held up these values, forever strong, and her presence with us, at this tender age of 103, is only testimonial that these values and beliefs will be around us for a long time still.

Rose Igitol said that having her mother live with her in 2007 "has been such a blessing. Not only do family and friends offer prayers for Na, they offer them for us, too, and we are very, very grateful. Visits from Pali James, Tony, and Linda for blessings, communion and prayers have given us the strength, the patience and the will to be of service to our mother."

One of her granddaughters, Melvina M. Igitol, said:

"Today is an awesome day, having to celebrate my Grandma's 103rd birthday with her…I want to thank her for my upbringing. Na is one awesome, strong, and determined woman! Words just cannot express how grateful I am for her. She has been such an inspiration in my life and has helped shape me into the person I am today."

Melvina Igitol said her grandmother taught her to love and embrace life in its entirety, both life's pleasures and trials. "I am so incredibly blessed and thankful that I still have her in my life."

Growing up, Melvina M. Igitol remembers how it was like living under her grandmother and grandfather's roof. She recalls how they would take her everywhere they went—church, fishing, crop harvesting, family visits, baseball games, shopping (she called it "special treats")—and she enjoyed every moment of them.

"Na [is a] wonderful and loving woman. …As we rejoice and reminisce in the blissful years of this incredible woman's life, we also ask God to bless and embrace her. I love you Na and I wish you the happiest birthday ever," she said.

Another one of Ana Igitol's granddaughters, Tara I. Pangelinan, remembers her grandmother's stories about World War II. She said her grandmother remembers the people she knew. Igitol told her about how she ran for her life to find safety from the bombings and how she stayed in the bunkers, worrying about her children.

Pangelinan suggests that her grandmother's diet and way of life are big contributors to her long life. "Now, the love, faith and commitment of her family to continue to care for her, even if doctors gave up" is what contributes to her long life.

She had the biggest and most generous heart, said Pangelinan. "She opened her home to everyone. She loved and cared for her family and raised us to love, respect and support the family."

Pangelinan loved growing up with her grandmother. She said Igitol made sure she had what she needed by going fishing, clamming and farming vegetables and animals.

"It was awesome," said Pangelinan. "Having *meriendas* of baked goodies under the mango tree. [It was] very modest living but we were very happy."

Pangelinan believes her grandmother's biggest ordeals were the war and the deaths of her children. Still, Igitol loved her life with her husband, Pangelinan said, and believes Igitol would not change anything about her life.

EXTENSION

From Page 1

it is clear that IPI is working around the clock to finish its multimillion-dollar project.

"We know that when they were starting construction, Saipan was hit by Typhoon Soudelor. All of us know how long it took the island to get back to its feet," he pointed out.

IPI had asked for more time on some of its deadlines, including the operation of its Best Sunshine Live training facility at the T Galleria.

It asked the CNMI government to extend the following: the Live Training facility from April 30 to Oct. 31; construction of Imperial Pacific Resort's initial gaming facility from Aug. 11, 2017 to Feb. 11, 2018; and complete and initiate operations of Phase 1 from Feb. 11, 2018, to May 1, 2023, and Phase 2 from Aug. 11, 2022 to May 1, 2030. Phase 1 refers to the casino-hotel in Garapan; Phase 2 is the planned waterpark at the Mariana Resort & Spa property.

Deleon Guerrero said the Soudelor disaster and other circumstances that were beyond control should be considered for extending the deadline.

"I think there should be some sort of consideration made for that. Secondly, I think there were some issues with regards to leasing the public land over there. The negotiations took awhile and I don't think the applicant should be penalized when there could have been delays on the government's part to approve the lease agreement," Deleon Guerrero said. "We've seen they've been acting in good faith and there were circumstances that were beyond their control. I think that is something to consider.

"If it means a couple of months to grant an extension of the deadline in the license agreement, I think that kind of consideration can be made. They've been working round-the-clock. I rather see that we extend the deadline and allow them to finish."

He, however, reminded IPI to consider the safety of their patrons once they begin their casino operations in the first quarter of 2017. IPI is planning to have its soft opening with its casino and gaming facility next month.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PAL

From Page 1

Villaluna, *Saipan Tribune* learned that the last day of the twice weekly operation to Saipan would be on March 25. Operation of the route would resume from June 14 to June 18, also twice weekly, and from Dec. 13 to March 24, 2018, twice weekly as well.

"Future schedules will be announced accordingly," said Villaluna.

Villaluna said that PAL had planned to "operate on a seasonal basis" since the start of the route.

"Due to the increased demand by the China market for routes to Saipan via Manila, the services continued with regularity since March 2016. Come March 16, 2017, we are, in effect, implementing the original intent to operate on a seasonal basis," said Villaluna.

Villaluna clarified that operations would merely be changed to seasonal flights and specified services would still continue.

"We assure our passengers that Philippine Airlines continues to serve the flight needs of Saipan-Manila-Saipan travelers, albeit on a seasonal service," assured Villaluna.

CLOSER

From Page 1

In 2010, GBA also alerted its members and the public of a fraudulent phone call and text scam. The scam begins with a text message that had a phone number and asks the client to call their local bank. A recorded message will answer the client once they call the phone number and they will be informed that their account is going to be deactivated. The recorded message would then ask the caller for their 16-digit credit card number.

GBA, back then, warned their clients to disregard the message—banking institutions don't solicit for personal information of their account holders via email, phone, or text message.

BoG senior vice president and chief communications officer Jackie A. Marati said their institution had also been a victim of skimmers, and they have tightened their security measures to prevent similar incidents from happening.

"[BoG] has a mechanism in place to detect skimming and other types of fraud, as well as procedures for handling card compromises that protect the interests of our customers," said Marati in an email to he *Saipan Tribune.*

"We have tested policies and procedures to handle these matters," added Marati, when asked if they also have precautionary measures to prevent skimming incidents and other forms of bank fraud.

She added that GBA members also work closely to combat any form of bank fraud. " We work closely with our counterparts at other local financial institutions to combat fraud and ensure that our mutual customers' interests are protected."

Although it has yet to experience bank fraud, BankPacific has installed tighter security features for its automated teller machines.

"We have never been a victim of skimming devices. We check all of our ATMs throughout our system daily to ensure no devices have been inserted. All ATMs have camera surveillance to target any possible 'shenanigans,'" said BankPacific president, CEO, and board chair Philip Flores in a separate email to *Saipan Tribune*.

The GBA or any of its member banks also immediately sends out an alert once a member falls prey to cyber criminals. "[Once] other banks have been hit they immediately inform all others so we can all check our respective ATMs [as soon as possible]. It's a professional courtesy shared amongst the banks," Flores added.

Bank of Hawaii has also not experienced any skimming device, said vice president for communications Melissa Torres-Laing. "We do partner with a vendor to take preventive measures to help secure our ATMs."

Bank of Saipan also said that they haven't been victimized by skimmers, according to operations manager Gina T. Hazen.

FHB, meanwhile, sent letters to their cardholders to take precautionary measures for their respective accounts. They also issued new cards with new account numbers as a precautionary measure.

Assistant vice president for card sales division Jon Lucina, in the letter, said FHB takes customer privacy and account security seriously. "We monitor card accounts 24/7 and believe that your card information may be at risk for unauthorized use."

FHB suggested that their clients destroy their old cards as soon as they receive the new one, with the new personal identification number to be mailed separately. The old cards became invalid last Feb. 22 and they advised their clients to update their PIN by either calling FHB at (800) 545-6300 or by visiting their two branches on Saipan.

"We will continue to monitor activity on your account 24/7. You can help us protect your account by reviewing your monthly account statements carefully and notifying us immediately of any unauthorized transactions," said Lucina, who added that customers can call (808) 847-4444 or (800) 342-2778 for any questions.

More secure ATMs

Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) said CNMI banks should install new and more secure ATMs that could easily detect a skimming device that has been put in place. He added that he would meet with Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman and Division of Banking officials to address the issue.

"To see how we could ask the banking institutions to retrofit their ATMs to the latest technology where all of these skimming devices could easily be detected. Apparently, most ATMs that are currently being used here are no longer compatible or outdated," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune.*

"It boils down to making sure ATMs on the island are new and are equipped with the latest security measures to avoid insertion of skimming devices. Criminals would create new devices and new ways to commit fraud. Criminals out there also innovate," said Guerrero.

He suggests that banks in the CNMI should be proactive in addressing this and other concerns regarding bank fraud so their clients could immediately make transactions.

"The depositors, who are victims and being scammed with their accounts, that is their livelihood and they depend on it. The waiting time is long, for them to be compensated for their loss. They are not able to withdraw money or do any transaction," added Guerrero, who revealed that he also fell prey to skimmers and his account was also compromised.

"It's a good thing and I was lucky that it was identified immediately. [Still], I had to wait for a replacement card that took two weeks, I was unable to withdraw money. The same thing happens with other cardholders. The bank will cease the usage of the card once their customers' account is compromised so you could no longer use it for transactions."

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Life In Motion

JON PEREZ
Acting governor Victor B. Hocog, center, joins members of the Commonwealth Cancer Association for a group photo in last Tuesday's proclamation signing declaring March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

'Any type of cancer is an uphill battle'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cesar Dumatol joined other cancer survivors in saying that having the disease is always an uphill battle. The now 77-year-old was first diagnosed on Saipan when he was 48 years old in May of 1988, sought a second opinion in the Philippines, and has now been cancer-free since undergoing an operation and more than a year of chemotherapy.

Dumatol joined officials and members of the Commonwealth Cancer Association in last Tuesday's proclamation, declaring March as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Acting governor Victor B. Hocog, who signed the proclamation on Capital Hill, is thankful that he survived cancer but also expressed sadness for those who lost the battle.

"Life is very short. I remember, before I was diagnosed with cancer, I wasn't worried at all about what I ate. I wasn't taking care of myself but once you're diagnosed, you have to really change your lifestyle. I did that after I was diagnosed with colorectal cancer and had the operation. I changed my diet, I started exercising, and always had a colonoscopy. Get yourself checked, especially at the age of 50."

Colonoscopy, according to the Susan Cohan Colon Cancer Foundation, is a procedure that lets physicians examine the inside your entire large intestine, from the lowest part up to the colon and lower end of the small intestines. It is used to look for early signs of cancer in the colon and rectum.

Dumatol said his cancer was already in Stage 4 when he was diagnosed. Doctors had to cut a foot of his big intestine. "At first I denied it. I ignored the symptoms. This is not something serious and only hemorrhoids. I did not rally pay attention and it was not my concern. They confirmed it when I was checked at the hospital."

He added that it is not only men who are affected by colorectal cancer. "I have female friends who died of colorectal cancer in the United States. They did not know about it until it was already Stage 4. I never thought colorectal cancer would affect women, I know only men.

"But a large percentage of women are also affected by this type of cancer. That's why I strongly urge everyone, especially those who are 50 years old and above, to have regular colonoscopy. Get yourself checked. My wife also has colonoscopy."

Colon cancer is the fourth leading type of cancer in the CNMI, according to the CNMI Cancer Registry, behind breast, cervical, and oral cancers. Lung cancer is the fifth deadliest type in the Commonwealth.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Belated happy birthday Frannie. Here's to hoping all of your birthday wishes will come true once you blew out those candles. If anyone deserves all the happiness in the world, it's you. Thank you for friendship. Love you and God bless. Always, Guava.

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3/12 **Sunday Brunch $22** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/13	3/14 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/15 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/16	3/17 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/18 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*
3/19 **Sunday Brunch $22** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/20	3/21 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/22 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/23	3/24 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/25 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*
3/26 **Sunday Brunch $22** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/27	3/28 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/29 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/30	3/31 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	4/1 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*

RESTAURANT DOLPHIN — Our "Dolphin" restaurant
(10th floor of Crystal Tower in Grandvrio Resort Saipan)
has reopened as A-La-Carte restaurant. Welcome to enjoy fast & nice Lunch Menu ($8~) and authentic Japanese Shabu Shabu or Sukiyaki for your dinner ($35). "Spectacular Ocean view and Sunset!" Starting from Nov. 07, 2016, our Dolphin restaurant brings out "Daily Chef's Special Lunch" from Mon. to Fri.; **EVERYTHING IS DIFFERENT!**$12 only, 15 servings per day; "First In First Out!" Opening time: Everyday Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm Last Order: 1:30pm / Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm Last Order: 8:30pm

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"Starlight BBQ" Dinner Buffet Location:
Poolside Price: Reg. AD $39 CH: $19 (Local: AD $35/ CH $17)
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TOUR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI first lady Diann Torres, 10th from left, and other first spouses pose for the camera after a tour of U.S. President George Washington's home and estate in Mount Vernon, which was built back in the late 1600s before it was passed down to him in 1754.

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2017 Nissan Rogue S 2WD retail price $27,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 72 monthly payments of $364.86 or $168.40 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $26,269.92.

ASL TRAINING

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, third from left, awards certificates of completion to employees of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the Rota Library for having completed basic American sign language training. Other employees from the Rota Department of Public Safety and Public School System also participated in the training. Those in the photo are, from left, Diana Benavente, NMC Rota Center staff; James Manglona, Rota DFEMS; Fernandez; Bergitt Maratita, Rota Library; Gary Toves, Rota DFEMS; and Martin Mendiola, NMC Rota Center executive director.

NMC

JKPL lines up March activities

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library has lined up a series of activities this month that includes ukulele classes, read-aloud events, computer learning classes, movie days, arts and crafts, fitness classes, tech classes, AmeriCorps classes, etc.

All classes will take place at the library's Susupe site and are all free except for some.

The library also expects to hold ribbon-cutting ceremonies for a saltwater aquarium and a community garden.

For the beginner and intermediate ukulele classes, they started last Wednesday, March 1, 2017. A $50 registration was required. For more information, contact (670) 235-7315.

The Toddler Read Aloud starts today, Friday, March 3, starting at 10:30am, at the library's Children of Our Homeland Center. For more information, contact (670) 235-7315.

This Saturday is a Read Aloud with Dr. Seuss and Craft at the Children of Our Homeland Center, starting at 10am. For more information, contact (670) 235-7315.

The Basic Computer Learning classes will start on Saturday, March 4, 2017, at 10am, at the library's Information Technology Center. For more information, contact (670) 235-7329.

This Saturday, March 4, 2017, is Family Movie Day with Dr. Seuss, starting at 1pm, at the Children of Our Homeland Center. For more information, contact (670) 235-7315.

This Saturday also, March 4, 2017, is the Motheread/ Fatheread Americorps Class starting at 3pm, at the Children of Our Homeland Center. For more information, contact (670) 235-7315/7319.

There will be a basic computer learning class for the *man'amko* on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, from 10am to 11am, which will be at the Information Technology Center. For more information, contact (670) 235-7329

There will be a film screening of *Almost Sunrise* that will be sponsored by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council on March 18, 2017, starting at 10:30am at the video teleconference room.

The library will have an Adopt-A-Highway Trash Pick-up on Saturday, March 18, 2017, starting at 4pm. For more information, contact (670) 235-7315.

The library's ribbon cutting ceremony for its saltwater aquarium will take place on Wednesday, March 15, 2017. For more information contact 235-7319.

There will be a public hearing for the purchase of a new Bookmobile on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, starting at 5pm, at the library's VTC room. For more information, contact: 235-7329.

The library will also have a Friends of the JKPL general membership meeting on

Friday, March 10, 2017, from 4pm to 5pm at the VTC room. For more information, contact 235-7319.

The Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library also holds daily book sales during which they also sell CDs and DVDs.

For the latest information on JKPL activities, check www.cnmilib.org or Facebook joeten kiyu or contact 235- 7323 or 235-7319.

The library will be closed on March 24, 2017 for Commonwealth Covenant Day.

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Department of Veterans Affairs
TOWN HALL MEETING

Hosted by Honolulu Veterans Affairs Regional Office Director Karen M. Gooden
&
Veterans Affairs Pacific Island Health Care System Associate Director Tonia J. Bagby &
Nurse Executive Kate Hansen-Schmitt

WHO: *Veterans, their families and Survivors, and any organization or individual who works with or on behalf of Veterans*

WHAT: *Town Hall Meeting*

WHERE: *Kanoa Resort*
Seaside Hall
Kanoa Beach Road

WHEN: *March 9, 2017, 1:00pm to 2:30pm*

WHY: *To share information, hear feedback from customers and to answer questions on VA health care and benefits.*

For more information please contact Aiko Shibuya, Public Affairs Officer, Honolulu VA Regional Office at (808) 433-0501 or Amy Rohlfs, Public Affairs Officer, Veterans Affairs Pacific Island Health Care System, at (808) 208-5544.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

McDonald's donates $10K to the college

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

McDonald's Saipan is offering a $5,000 hole-in-one prize for the NMC Foundation's upcoming golf tournament on March 18.

McDonald's Saipan also donated $5,000 to the fundraising golf tournament itself.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez is very happy with how the golf tournament preparations have been going and that she always appreciated the support of the Ayuyu family.

"Mr. Joe Ayuyu has always been supportive and his daughter, Mable Ayuyu, was a member of the Northern Marianas College Foundation. We are just so happy with the really good [amount] of donations given for the upcoming golf tournament. We think it is going to be a very big success," said Fernandez.

Much of the funds that will be raised would go to the improvement of classrooms or professional development training of NMC staff.

McDonald's Saipan executive assistant to the president Mable Ayuyu said that McDonald's supports education above all.

"Education is an investment. We don't see the golf tournament as just another event that we are donating to, we really see the money that we are giving for this golf tournament as money to support the education of students or possibly fund someone whose dream is to one day become a businessman," said Ayuyu.

According to Ayuyu, McDonald's always donates to NMC whenever it holds the golf tournament.

"My father [Joe Ayuyu Sr.] has a special niche for NMC, and he understands that they are the only community college on Saipan that services people that want to go to college, including residents of Rota, Tinian, and the Northern Islands," said Ayuyu. "[McDonalds is] really proud to stand by them and see them succeed."

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- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FHPA) or Section 8
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicaid

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NUMBER IN HOUSEHOLD	POVERTY GUIDELINE
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2	$16,240
3	$20,420
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5	$28,780
For each additional household member, add	$4,180

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NMI Democrats cast votes for DNC chair

Members of the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands were in Atlanta, Georgia, over the weekend to attend the Democratic National Committee winter meeting. Heading the delegation was NMI Democrats chair Danny Quitugua, along with Nola Hix and Michael White. The delegates had the opportunity to vote for the DNC chairman.

This was the first time the NMI Democratic Party participated in the DNC meetings as full members, and the first time the delegates were able to vote for candidates running for positions within the national party. Last July the party participated in the Democratic National Convention and, for the first time in CNMI history, cast their ballots for the Democratic nominee for president.

"We are having a say in how the national party operates," said Quitugua. "We had the chance to meet with party officials and talk to them about the issues we face in the islands, and how the national party can help us address them."

Quitugua believes that it is important for the Northern Mariana Islands to engage in national politics.

"The five U.S. territories collectively have 113 votes at the Democratic National Convention. That's about as many as Wisconsin or North Carolina," Quitugua said. "We have the potential to be very influential in national politics, and we should wield that power to improve the lives of our people."

The delegates were front and center during the DNC meeting and met with nearly all of the candidates in Atlanta, including former Labor Secretary Tom Perez, Rep. Keith Ellison, and South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg. Perez was later chosen as the new DNC chairman.

A CNN Live Leadership debate between the eight candidates for DNC chair was also a feature of the event.

"We literally had front row seats at the DNC chair debate on CNN," said Hix. "But more importantly we had a voice at the meeting." ***(PR)***

NMI Democrats with the newly elected NDC deputy chair Keith Ellison, second from left, from Minnesota. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IPI OK with Ewing settlement

Imperial Pacific International, Ltd. is open to settlement talks with Danny Ewing, a former Best Sunshine International, Ltd. employee who filed a wrongful termination lawsuit against the casino owner.

George Lloyd Hasselback has informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that his client, Imperial Pacific, will be willing to discuss settlement with Ewing, Best Sunshine's former casino vice president of table games.

In a statement filed in court on Wednesday, Hasselback also disclosed that they will shortly be filing an amended answer to Ewing's claims.

Hasselback said he has discussed this with Ewing and received the latter's consent to the filing.

As to jurisdiction and venue in this case, the lawyer said Imperial Pacific does not perceive any issue at this time.

In his lawsuit, Ewing, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, alleged that the casino management was engaging in illegal practices, among other things, when it allowed a customer to deposit $400,000 with the casino's cashier without the required Anti-Money Laundering identification.

Imperial Pacific operates at the T Galleria the Best Sunshine Live, a temporary casino that trains workers to ultimately service its permanent casino, now being constructed in Garapan.

Ewing is suing Imperial Pacific for wrongful termination in violation of public policy (anti-money laundering standards and regulations), (Fair Labor Standards Act and Occupation Safety and Health Act regulations), (immigration violations); wrongful failure to hire; and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Ewing is demanding payment of unspecified damages.

Imperial Pacific has denied the allegations. Hasselback has asserted that the federal court lacks jurisdiction over the claims contained in the lawsuit.

Hasselback also argued that Ewing's claims should be barred and/or limited by his failure to mitigate damages.

In Imperial Pacific's answer and affirmative defenses to Ewing's lawsuit, Hasselback said his client denies the allegations that the company failed to implement or enforce an adequate anti-money laundering program. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NOTICE OF INTENT

CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

NOTICE OF PROPOSED SCHOOL MAINTENANCE WORK IN A FLOODPLAIN FOR INSULAR ABC's SCHOOL INITIATIVE, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANAS

Pursuant to the Office of Insular Affairs and the CNMI Governor's Insular ABC's Initiative, the CNMI Public School System (PSS) proposes repair and maintenance projects to improve the condition of public schools.

The general scopes of work involves repair or replacement of failing or missing components of existing buildings, and repair, replacement, or improvements to school grounds and associated infrastructure (including ground disturbing activities). The proposed projects would be confined to existing school property, and would not increase the capacity of the schools or significantly alter the character or use of the schools.

A number of schools are located in federally designated floodplains which would require compliance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management. The affected schools include:

Saipan: G.T. Camacho Elementary School, Garapan Elementary School, Hopwood Junior High School, Oleai Elementary School, and San Antonio Middle School.
Rota: Rota Junior High School and Rota High School.

PSS is soliciting public comment on the proposed projects through issuance of this public notice. Comments received may aid in the identification of potential impacts and the evaluation of alternatives that could avoid, minimize or mitigate these impacts. Individuals requesting additional information or submitting comments on these projects should contact PSS CIP Program Coordinator Rachel Fusco or ABC's Program Manager Mr. Brickey at 670-322-3716. Written comments regarding this project must be received at the below address within 15 days of publication of this notice to be considered in this evaluation and decision process.

Ms. Rachel Fusco, CIP Program Coordinator, attention Mr. Rodney Brickey, CNMI Public School System, PO BOX 501370, Saipan, MP 96950.

Century Hotel is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following vacant positions:

(5) GENERAL MAINTENANCE
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years work experience as a handyman preferably in a hotel or in a similar large building or complex with a central plant. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Possession of a valid CNMI driver's license is required. Perform work involving skills of two or more maintenance craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment of the structure of an establishment in repair. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights. High School diploma or equivalent.

Application may be picked up and submitted to Fiesta Resort's security office located in the South Wing. A drug test must be passed as a condition of employment.
Closing date: March 3, 2017

Century Hotel is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified Women, Minorities Veterans and persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd. inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE – HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY & LUBRICANTS

A minimum of 3 years work related experience required with a successful Sales record. Preferably with an Associate's degree in Sales & Marketing. Sales experience with hotel, F&B, and restaurants together with knowledge of their inventory supply operations an advantage. Knowledge of petroleum lubricants a plus. Proven good track record in product marketing and excellent customer service is required. Must be proficient in Microsoft Excel, Word and Outlook. Must provide own reliable transport and must be able to meet monthly sales targets. Must be able to lift 50lbs. Extensive contacts in various businesses and industries an advantage. Available to work evenings, holidays or weekends as needed.

Interested applicants must submit an application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. building, Lower Base, by March 14, 2017. Applications may also be sent to: mpk@dandq-international.com. The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment.
Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following vacant position:

Accountants (2)
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Graphic Designer (1)
Associate's degree in Fine Arts, Graphic Design or other related areas. Minimum of 3 years work experience in creating graphics to meet specific commercial or promotional needs. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, depending on demand

Application forms may be obtained and submitted to our Security Office located on the South Wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, March 18, 2017.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

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In inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following vacant positions

(1) Supervisor, Carpentry
2 years experience as a carpenter in a supervisory level is required. Must have strong organizational and time management skills. Must be able to work under pressure and be able to lift and carry heavy objects. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Application forms may be obtained and submitted to our Security Office located on the South Wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa. Deadline for submission of applications to be considered is March 6, 2017.

Fiesta Resort & Spa is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Triple J Motors general manager Randy Steele, center, in checkered shirt, together with Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, fifth from left, and NMC students, pose with the Mazda6i Sport that is featured as a hole-in-one prize in the upcoming NMC Foundation Golf Tournament on March 18.

NMC

NMC FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Triple J offers Mazda 6 as hole-in-one prize

Triple J Motors announced yesterday that it is offering a brand new 2017 Mazda6i Sport as a hole-in-one prize for the upcoming 14th Annual Northern Marianas College Foundation Open golf tournament, which will be held on March 18.

"The NMC Foundation Golf Tournament raises funds that ultimately benefit student programs and services at Northern Marianas College," said Randy Steele, Triple J Motors general manager. "Our company is proud to be part of this effort, and we look forward to a great game of golf on March 18.

"Triple J Motors, along with the other Triple J companies, continues to be one of the most ardent supporters of Northern Marianas College," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "We are extremely grateful for their contribution to this year's tournament and their support for all these years."

"The Mazda 6i Sport will be a big draw for golfers," said Mary Tenorio, president of the NMC Foundation. "We thank Triple J Motors for offering this sleek, beautifully engineered vehicle as a hole-in-one prize."

The 14th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2017, at the Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort (east course). Show time is at 6am and the shotgun start will be at 7am. The tournament will follow a medal play format.

First place winners in the men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies Flights will each receive $500, while $300 and $200 will go to the second and third place finishers.

Hole-in-one prizes include a 2017 Toyota Tacoma from Atkins Kroll Saipan, a 2017 Mazda6i Sport from Triple J Motors, and $5,000 in cash each from Marianas Insurance Co., McDonald's Saipan, and Pacifica Insurance. The tournament will also feature many other items as raffle prizes like smartphones, hotel stays, meal gift certificates, and much more.

Registration and payment can be made at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort or the NMC Cashier's Office. For sponsorship opportunities or registration information, visit marianas.edu or call 237-6833. ***(NMC)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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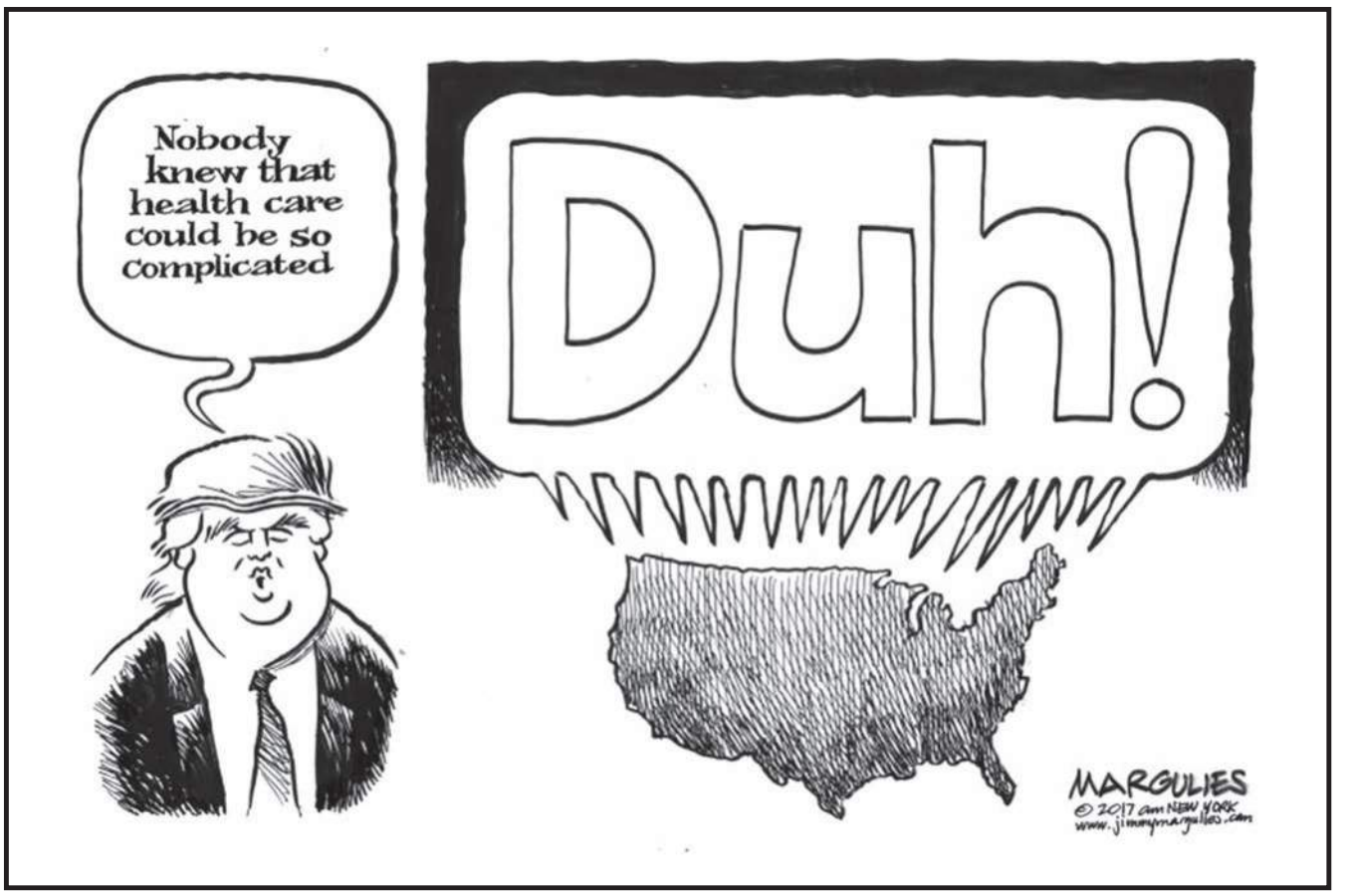


EDITORIAL

Does Trump's new tone signal a real shift?

President Trump's first formal address to the nation Tuesday was the reasoned, focused showing he has needed to make since he took office. Appearing relaxed and confident, Trump finally articulated his vision—one that was contradictory at times, but which nevertheless laid out an optimistic path for a country that can "turn hopes and dreams into action" and whose people are "empowered by our aspirations, not burdened by our fears."

The tone was vastly different from his dark inaugural address, or the petulant, angry performance that was his first solo news conference. He focused on issues and promoted a number of favorite Republican proposals, including lower business taxes and health insurance sold across state lines, but also pushed some initiatives that are bound to rile Republicans and businesses.

He accused pharmaceutical companies of artificially inflating drug prices and said he wanted those costs lowered "immediately." He renewed his campaign pledge to make it more difficult for American companies to leave this nation's shores, which will make corporations nervous—no matter how much of a tax break they get.

On immigration, Trump laid down another marker, saying he wanted a system based on merit, with immigrants who could earn their keep, and which would, by throttling off illegal immigration, drive up wages for Americans. If he follows through, that would dramatically alter the longtime nod-and-wink arrangement many employers have had with government regarding the cheap, easily controlled labor source that for decades has helped them keep prices down.

Some of the bigger contradictions, which are already meeting with GOP resistance, came in the heady combination of lower corporate taxes, "massive tax relief for the middle class," paid family leave, Medicaid flexibility for states, to ensure no one is left behind on health care, and an Eisenhower-style program of national infrastructure rebuilding. Republicans like House Speaker Paul Ryan who are mindful of the $20 trillion national debt are already signaling it is too rich.

Those are battles yet to come, as Trump and a GOP Congress work out a budget. What Americans will take away from Tuesday's address is a president who at last struck an inspiring, even bipartisan tone, who asked Americans to be unafraid to dream of "American footprints on distant worlds," and of a country where having "millions lifted from welfare to work, mothers safe from fear, schools where children learn in peace" is "not too much to ask." That is a dramatic departure from the divisive, often angry figure seen in recent weeks.

On Tuesday, Trump reached out to the widow of Navy SEAL Ryan Owens, who died in the recent Yemen attack, even loosely citing the Bible verse John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Trump closed his speech by saying that the time for small thinking was over, the time for trivial fights "behind us." His biggest task in coming months may be to hold true to that promise and to fully embrace the responsibility that now is his, to represent all Americans.

(c) 2017 *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis)

Trump talks big, but making it happen is another thing

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is a columnist for The Dallas Morning News. *Readers may email him at carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.*

Like most presidential presentations, Donald Trump's initial venture into the soaring chamber of the House of Representatives looked and sounded good, producing some positive reactions that could expand the embattled president's short-term support.

But such speeches tend to have a very short half-life.

Trump's hour-long address made solving massive national problems sound possible, from creating a more vibrant economy to revamping and expanding health care, if only both parties follow his lead. From his opening words condemning racial and religious hatred to repeated pleas for Democratic and Republican cooperation, Trump sought to set a less confrontational tone than he has exhibited in his first month in office.

The problem, as Ronald Reagan used to say in discussing arms control talks, is that the devil is in the details. Most Republicans who jumped repeatedly to their feet to cheer the new president would have likely condemned such promises as unrealistic and unachievable had they come from a Democrat.

Their almost automaton-like responses underscored the fact that Trump is almost totally dependent on fellow Republicans to enact his proposals. Democrats, who mostly sat silently, show little sign of embracing them, and even some Republicans are skeptical about the contradiction between his soaring pledges and proposals that would reduce the government's straightened resources even further.

"Everything that is broken in our country can be fixed. Every problem can be solved," Trump insisted, declaring "Democrats and Republicans should get together and unite for the good of our country and for the good of the American people." But that and his statement "the time for trivial fights is behind us" seemed less meaningful from a president who derided House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi earlier Tuesday as "incompetent."

He pledged "a big, big cut" in business taxes and "massive tax relief" for middle class Americans, plus "one of the largest increases" ever in defense spending and a trillion dollar infrastructure program. He touted Obamacare reforms that "expand choice, increase access, lower costs and at the same time provide better health care," with "access to coverage" for those with pre-existing conditions now guaranteed coverage and tax credits to help Americans buy their own coverage, basically the plan House Republicans are crafting.

But he said nothing about curbing the deficit, except to decry the increased national debt over the last eight years, or limiting the budget's fastest growing parts, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. And he continued to portray a country far weaker than it is, citing 94 million out of the labor force and 43 million in poverty while ignoring the fact that falling unemployment is nearing what most economists consider "full employment."

Democrats like Trump's proposal to rebuild the nation's roads, bridges and tunnels. But many question his stress on using private capital, while Republicans generally oppose any massive new federal funds.

Even on immigration, where Trump apparently told TV anchors he might be open to the kind of comprehensive measure he previously opposed, he confined himself to proposing "a merit-based system," rather than "this current system of lower-skilled immigration."

He sidestepped the crucial issue of providing a path to legal status or even citizenship for the 11 million illegal immigrants already in this country.

Besides urging an array of legislative goals that will challenge a congress already struggling with the complexities of Obamacare and tax reform, Trump presented a typically self-congratulatory listing of his "progress" in fulfilling campaign promises. He made no mention of his oft-stated desire to ease U.S. relations with Vladimir Putin's Russia.

And in the night's emotional high point, he sent tears streaming down the cheeks of the widow of Navy SEAL William "Ryan" Owens when he said Defense Secretary James Mattis assured him of the oft-criticized Yemen mission's value, adding, "Ryan's legacy is etched into eternity. And Ryan is looking down right now."

But his focus was domestic and the degree to which his presidency will provide "a new chapter in American greatness." A CNN poll showed a majority of viewers reacted positively. Though, as has frequently been the case, Trump attracted lower support than former Presidents Barack Obama's and George W. Bush's initial speeches to Congress.

Two things will almost certainly follow. Congressional Republicans will press ahead with what Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" are "the opportunities the Trump presidency provides" to enact their long-standing agenda.

And though the White House delayed Wednesday's scheduled issuance of a revised immigration limitation order, Trump's speech will likely be overtaken quickly by continuing dramatic displays of executive authority, like that and Monday's reversal of a prior Justice Department stance questioning the motives behind Texas' voter identification law.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Bon voyage

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

As travel plans for spring and summertime are being inked, here's a heads-up: You might face airline fees for putting baggage in the overhead bin.

I know of one airline that has been charging for overhead space for a number of years. That particular airline's route structure isn't anywhere near Saipan, though, so this case didn't seem to be an item of local interest.

Things have, however, changed. This fee is ink-blotting toward Saipan and the west Pacific. At least a couple of major U.S. airlines with routes in the west Pacific are reportedly charging for the overhead bin nowadays, at least in some cases. So this is an item in the equation that CNMI travelers should be aware of.

Outside of that simple observation, well, don't look to me for any wisdom on airline fees. I'm not very good about keeping up with this stuff. In fact, over the past few years I've found myself giving up on self-booked travel as I migrate back to the realm of the traditional travel agent.

Having tossed this part of life back into the agent's circle of competence, my brain is unburdened. This allows me to concentrate on things I am more suited to contemplate, such as cheeseburgers, taking naps, and fixing the cassette player in my pickup truck.

As for travel, I long ago decided that it costs what it costs. I'm not going to torment myself over the pricing dynamics. Being a passenger is like enforced recess for me; it's a time when I feel absolutely no obligation to get any work done or to solve anybody's problems, including, notably, my own. I'm content to read a book, eat whatever I can find, ignore my phone, ignore the news, and relax. Come to think of it, that's how I approach normal life. No wonder I feel so at home on the road.

And on that note I have pretty much built my humble existence around the confines of the overhead bin. Specifications for carry-on suitcases vary by airline. A common standard is a maximum measurement of 22-inches high, 14-inches wide, and 9-inches thick.

Bag volumes are hard to envision in comparative terms, so I'm going to scribble some numbers. The aforementioned dimensions come to 2,772 cubic inches. Of course, the suitcase design and its mechanisms will render some of this nominal volume unusable. With that in mind, I'll consider an arbitrary 85 percent of the volume as usable, which results in 2,356 cubic inches of packable space.

Meanwhile, a soft-sided attaché bag, taken aboard as a "personal item" that stows beneath the seat, can typically be good for another 1,100 to 1,300 cubic inches or so. Some will go higher, but I'll keep things mild here. Anyway, these bags are often made of canvas or leather and in any sane design the entire volume is essentially usable.

With these numbers in mind, we can strike a comparison. We see that the personal item holds about half as much as the suitcase does, maybe even a little bit more than half. The personal item, therefore, deserves more than afterthought status. It's worthwhile to buy a good soft-sided attaché and to pack it carefully.

In fact, most of the experienced travelers I know spend more money on their attachés than they do on their suitcases.

In some ways, things now are better than they were before. I remember the days before rolling suitcases claimed the market. In fact, I used to sell the old-style suitcases when I was a teenager. Those slab-sided millstones were really ungainly. After a day's travel your arm would be hanging loose from its socket from carrying your suitcase. It almost took a forklift to maneuver one of those things into a car trunk. Even the good ones were hard to like.

As for the cheap ones, yikes. They were just lumpy vinyl rectangles that smelled like volatile organic compounds being off-gassed by industrial waste. The zippers split. The latches popped. The handles fell off. If there was any glory to be had in travel, it sure eluded this end of things.

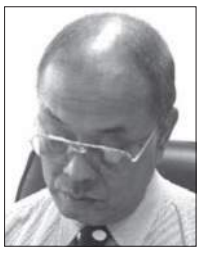
So as much as we might not enjoy navigating the modern world of luggage rules, at least the luggage itself is good, and many a modern road-warrior has built a life around its dimensions.

When my time comes they'll put my ashes in a 22-inch Travelpro suitcase. Thus will begin my journey to the great beyond; providing, of course, that I can pay the fee.

US immigration

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.



The federal government was negligent of its immigration policy for decades that allowed the drug cartels and our enemies to enter through our southern border. Security was out of control, especially during the last eight years!

In his address to the U.S. Congress, Trump sees the need to quickly slam the brakes against migrants, especially those from seven dangerous countries where Islamist terrorists are strongest. Some 53 percent of Americans across country support his effort.

His speech, albeit more positively conciliatory than his inaugural, a lot of it is rhetoric that didn't provide clarity or strong steer how he plans to move his agenda beyond the call for unity. Granted, a lot depends on how well he funnels his proposals through Congress. But he was firm to do justice with security and job opportunities for Americans under a fair immigration policy.

As Washington resets buttons on immigration, the various industries should also see some sigh of relief in the use of foreign workers. But all must come into the country legally and would not become public charges!

Trump plans to spend billions of dollars rebuilding the country's crumbled infrastructure. This should create thousands upon thousands of jobs across the country. He'd also funnel billions more to modernize the country's military system.

No wonder he told territorial governors to learn to "work with less." Trump's projects require billions of dollars. Thus the heavy budget cuts for EPA, NEA, food stamps and the replacement of Obamacare. This could affect Medicaid until the new program is fine-tuned and in place. It means the NMI must shoulder the cost of these programs through locally generated revenues. Did you get that pal?

Must exit Mañana Syndrome, now!

There are numerous substantive issues that have suffered heavily from the usual *mañana* syndrome over the years. Some have finally caught up with us, stunned, if not dazed, at how internal negligence turns into real eleventh-hour challenges. Today, they are knocking heavily at the front door. They include the following:

BSI extension: The request for an extension by BSI merits legislative oversight to ensure the company meets commitment as sought in the original law.

If anything, the concept of an integrated resort—two facilities in one—is a highly successful economic venture in Singapore. It is now considered a good model to emulate in the establishment of casinos in Japan. One takes care of casino players, the other provides superior family entertainment.

But this requires billions of dollars. Is BSI still committed to its $7 billion integrated resort or has this been scaled back considerably? It's an issue the oversight hearing could probe to the hilt. Isn't it time to force BSI to put in its fair share of taxes into the local coffers?

Healthcare: The 60-bed hospital (CHC) designed for a population of 20,000 has since been dwarfed in capacity and capability by, yes, population growth.

It's an issue that slowly creeps up the sleeves of politicians who have treated it with the usual inconsequence. Nah! Take another closer look and listen with your eyes and ears wide open. Come to terms with the fact that the healthcare facility here is in dire need of major improvement.

To assist you in this discussion ask yourself: Is CHC equipped with a good backup system? Do you understand what the beast entails? If not, isn't it your fiduciary duty to explore the issue to the hilt and offer realistic answers? Where has the "solutions driven" team gone beyond its quiet disappearing act in junket trips?

In simple terms, the medical referral program is a tale that CHC isn't equipped with the requisite backup system to provide adequate healthcare delivery. How does it move forward as a neglected and underfunded agency? Would CHC be able to handle an outbreak of new bird flu?

Doctors and nurses have gone the extra mile daily to assist patients while stretched out over an 18-hour work shift. This is bad for both the medical staff and patients, isn't it? A tired doctor could miss the placement of his decimal point when prescribing medication. Moreover, the nurse may not even catch the misplaced decimal point when literally suffering from exhaustion. Did you get that pal?

Salary issues: The interesting aspect of salary hikes for PSS is the issue of federal poverty level income for a family of four benchmarked at $24,600 per year. It noted that the figure is still $8,000 more than salaries paid non-certified PSS employees. What's the point?

It's a tale that a majority of employees here (51 percent) are earning poverty level income or lower, thus the familial economic hardship. The figure ($24,600 for a family of four) is the benchmark to equal or surpass in order to enable families here real buying power.

Must resolve employment that still sends the same employees to the "chow line" of entitlement benefits. Indeed, it's an issue that presents a challenge given the struggling private industries navigating the bad times. What's the "solution driven" team's answer?

Infrastructure: The mind numbing congestion in the hotel district in Garapan shows the inability of the local government to plan developmental projects that follow emplacement of basic infrastructure.

It happens when the NMI plays into the hands of a given investor over establishing a level playing field and would you believe servile politicians are at the front line?

The area between DFS and the hotel district has forced such exasperating traffic congestion that it takes about 45 minutes to drive up to the junction that heads to Micro Beach.

Is this why BSI was given free regulatory review headed by Sen.ate President Arnold Palacios (as secretary for DNLR) who later came back asking what happens to water for the villagers when the casino joint opens? What have you been smoking, sir? Why is there such powerful stench of malversation in the air? Stinks, huh?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Nothing more than a cabal

The Trump administration is nothing more than a cabal, i.e., a private group hellbent on foisting their private views on the people of this nation and assuming we'll go along with their sinister agenda. Nothing could be further from the truth and that seems a word completely foreign to the President and his Cabinet made of people chosen by Trump who are committed to dismantling the very departments they head! President Trump and his wrecking ball team need to be stopped before we are stripped of basic rights, constitutional rights and the right to voice our opinions in opposition to this administration's dastardly race to oblivion via their own brand of fake news and alternative facts!

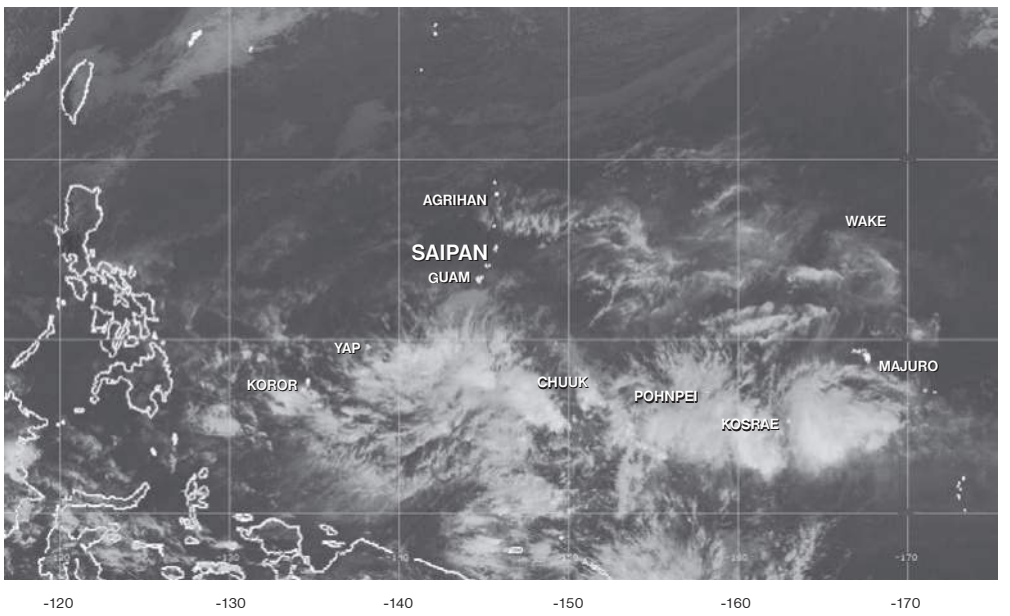
Herb Stark
Mooresville, NC

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 10:08 AM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak disturbance has brought scattered showers to the CNMI this morning. Saipan observations have shown heavy rain at times in the past couple of hours. Latest satellite imagery shows additional developement of showers to the east as the entire system drifts west-northwestward. This will prolong showers there until later this afternoon. The motion of the broader disturbance well to the south of Guam will be further assessed later this morning and early afternoon for any needed adjustments to the local forecasts beginning tonight.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	86 | 77 °F
Palau	Rain	86 | 77 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	84 | 71 °F
Chuuk	Overcast	84 | 80 °F
Pohnpei	Overcast	82 | 79 °F
Kosrae	Rain	82 | 79 °F
Majuro	Overcast	84 | 79 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	73 | 59 °F
Beijing	Sunny	58 | 28 °F
Hong Kong	Sunny	69 | 62 °F
Honolulu	Rain	82 | 71 °F
London	Scattered Clouds	52 | 44 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	77 | 48 °F
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	87 | 75 °F
Melbourne	Sunny	76 | 62 °F
Miami	Sunny	80 | 72 °F
New York	Sunny	69 | 48 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	56 | 44 °F
Paris	Sunny	53 | 41 °F
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	47 | 26 °F
Rome	Sunny	60 | 45 °F
Salem	Sunny	52 | 39 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	60 | 44 °F
Seoul	Sunny	50 | 28 °F
Tokyo	Rain	51 | 43 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	77 | 44 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:55 AM	LOW TIDE	0.46
10:51 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.97
5:40 PM	LOW TIDE	0.2
11:45 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.71

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Sunday	6:31 AM	6:25 PM
Monday	6:31 AM	6:25 PM
Tuesday	6:30 AM	6:25 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:58 AM	10:49 PM	-
Saturday	10:48 AM	11:48 PM	-
Sunday	11:40 AM	-	-
Monday	-	12:47 AM	12:35 PM
Tuesday	-	1:46 AM	13:32 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	1:40am	5:00am	1, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6 via MNL
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

9th Circuit court rules in favor of NMI's immunity

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that the Commonwealth or its agencies cannot be sued on claims arising under Commonwealth law in federal court without its consent.

The Ninth Circuit's decision was made in *Ramsey v. Muna*, a suit filed by physician Gary Ramsey who had worked at Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

"The ruling represents a significant victory for the Commonwealth, as it corrected a longstanding injustice in the unequal treatment of the Commonwealth compared to every other member of the United States political family," Attorney General Edward Manibusan said. "The [Appeals] Court has recognized the Commonwealth's sovereign immunity as to claims under Commonwealth law."

Before this ruling, the Commonwealth was the only state or territory in the union which did not enjoy sovereign immunity from federal suits based on its own laws.

The Ninth Circuit in this case distinguished its ruling in a 1988 case *Fleming v. Department of Public Safety*, that the Commonwealth had waived its sovereign immunity. It limited the *Fleming* holding to claims filed in federal court arising under federal law.

Manibusan stated, "We are pleased with the Ninth Circuit's decision and will move forward to defending the remaining claims in the complaint."

Ramsey alleged that CHCC had wrongfully denied his hospital privileges.

The *Ramsey* decision does not affect claims in which a Commonwealth official is sued in federal court on claims arising under both federal and Commonwealth law. ***(OAG)***

Fast action on SB 20-16 lauded

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas applauded the CNMI Legislature yesterday for its quick action on a Senate bill that clarifies the definition of "port-related operation" to enable an investor to secure a permit for its project.

Senate Bill 20-16 SD1 was authored by all nine members of the Senate.

"Clarifying the definition is crucial as it makes it easier for Bridge Investment Group to be granted a Coastal Resources Management permit and thereby proceed with its hotel/casino/ferry service project at the Tinian port," said San Nicolas.

Under SB 20-16 SD1, port related operation includes any lawful activity that is incidental to port services.

Since BIG will be providing ferry services in addition to a port hotel and casino, BIG's proposed development would be considered a port-related operation.

San Nicolas is particularly pleased with how fast the Senate and House acted on the bill.

"I thank Senate President [Arnold] Palacios and House Speaker [Rafael] Demapan for prioritizing SB 20-16 SD1," said San Nicolas

SB20-16 SD1 is now before Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for consideration. ***(PR)***

Isla Center for Arts hosts 19th Annual Art-a-thon

The Isla Center for the Arts at the University of Guam announced the opening of the 19th Annual Art-a-thon Exhibition yesterday, March 2, 2017. The exhibit features selected works of art created by students who participated in the 2016-2017 Isla Art-a-thon.

The exhibit includes over 60 works selected from over 800 students from 22 schools who participated in this year's art-a-thon. Students from elementary, middle, and high schools produced these impressive works using a variety of media including crayon, pastels, colored pencils, ink, graphite, collage, mixed media, pastels, foil relief, print, watercolors, and acrylics.

This year's art-a-thon raised just over $29,000! Forty percent of the funds raised, or $11,000, was returned to the participating schools to purchase art-related materials for the students.

The opening reception for this exhibit was held yesterday, March 2m from 6pm to 8:30pm, at the Isla center for the Arts, located in house #15, Dean's Circle on the University of Guam campus in Mangilao.

This project is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency, government of Guam, Office of the Governor, and the University of Guam. Corporate sponsors for the art-a-thon include Fish Eye Marine Park and Matson Foundation.

The Isla Center for the Arts at the University of Guam is open to the public free of charge. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm; Saturdays, from 10am to 2pm; closed on Sundays and holidays.

Please call 735-2965 or email islacenter@gmail.com for more information. ***(UOG)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-019

GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR CUC WATER & WASTEWATER FACILITIES, SAIPAN

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms capable of providing Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water and Wastewater facilities in Saipan, in compliance with USEPA inspection and sanitary survey requirements.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A mandatory pre-bid conference followed by a site visit is scheduled for **March 2, 2017** at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Saipan, to ensure prospective bidders are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions.

CUC will award a contract to more than one firm for said services, based on bids for "Service Section" pursuant to Scope-of-Work.

One (1) Original and Seven (7) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-17-019, Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water & Wastewater Facilities, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 17, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bids shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 6, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email — manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Gary Byrd, CUC Water & Wastewater Division Manager via email-gary.byrd@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Procurement Technician, via email–marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-020

CORAL TREE AVENUE, GARAPAN SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (S-11-017)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of sewer line in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The Project is to replace approximately ± 190 LF of existing 12-inch ACP, 6-inch service lateral connections, installation and monitoring of wastewater temporary by-pass pumping system and road restoration.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **60 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **March 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-020, Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan Sewer Line Replacement Project",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 23, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:00 PM (ChST) on March 15, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Birhen Martinez, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer – via email birhen.martinez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Travelko: Take a 3-day holiday in the Marianas

Japan travel website Travelko, in cooperation with the Marianas Visitors Authority, has launched a "3-Day Holiday in The Marianas" campaign targeting its 3.4-million monthly unique users, mostly travelers with a strong interest in overseas travel.

MVA

Japan travel website Travelko has launched a "3-Day Holiday in The Marianas" campaign targeting its 3.4-million monthly unique users, mostly travelers in their 20s and 30s with a strong interest in overseas travel.

The campaign, developed in cooperation with the Marianas Visitors Authority, touts the proximity of the Marianas to Japan for easy holiday travel, as well as the new "30 Treasures of The Marianas" presented through the images of renowned nature photographer Junji Takasago.

"The proximity of the Marianas to Japan remains one of our strongest selling points as a destination," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "At the same time, the stunning images of Mr. Takasago are capturing a revived and vibrant Marianas, from a new viewpoint. The two messages work well together and are being used across much of the MVA's marketing and promotions as of January."

The campaign provides a direct link to packages offered by major travel agencies, featuring interviews with two Marianas ambassadors who recently visited the islands, and promotes the ongoing Instagram contest "My Marianas." The campaign will continue through March 27. ***(MVA)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-17-IFB-007

AS PERDIDO ROAD ANTI-SKID, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) is soliciting sealed bids for the As Perdido Road Anti-Skid, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **February 17, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

Breach of Ethical Standard

- ***Gratuities.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. **NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 (a)**
- ***Kickbacks.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontractor or order. **NMIAC 70-30.3-725 (b)**
- ***Contingent fees.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. **NMIAC 70-30.3-730**

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **March 8, 2017 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 22, 2017 to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.
The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW-17-IFB-007**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, March 28, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, March 28, 2017**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 28, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **April 7, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, April 11, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on March 28, 2017**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Sixty (60) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Three Hundred Dollars (US$300.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-17-IFB-009

PINE DRIVE ROAD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) is soliciting sealed bids for the Pine Drive Road and Drainage Improvement, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **March 3, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred **Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

Breach of Ethical Standard

- *Gratuities.* It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. **NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 (a)**
- *Kickbacks.* It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontractor or order. **NMIAC 70-30.3-725 (b)**
- *Contingent fees.* It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. **NMIAC 70-30.3-730**

There will be a **Pre-bid** Conference for this project on **March 21, 2017** 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **April 4, 2017** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.
The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-17-IFB-009**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, April 7, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, April 7, 2017**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 7, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **April 20, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, April 24, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on April 7, 2017**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney GeneraL Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of Three Hundred Dollars **(US$300.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Business

Why deporting undocumented immigrants could slow US economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—If President Donald Trump's hardline stance on illegal immigration leads to large-scale deportations, among those hurt could be the U.S. economy.

That's the view of many economists, who say the United States can't afford to suddenly lose vast numbers of the immigrants who work illegally picking fruit and vegetables, building houses, busing tables, staffing meat-packing plants and cleaning hotel rooms.

Immigrants living illegally in the United States account for roughly 18 percent of employment in agriculture, 13 percent in construction and 10 percent at restaurants, hotels and casinos, according to a study done last year by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

"The economic shock would cause widespread ramifications," says Ben Gitis, director of labor market policy at the American Action Forum, a conservative think tank.

Addressing Congress on Tuesday night, Trump vowed to build "a great, great wall" to bar Mexican from entering the United States illegally. Even as he spoke, the president said, U.S. authorities were deporting the "bad ones."

The president's tough talk followed remarks he had made to CBS's "60 Minutes" after his November election: He warned that his administration might deport 2 million to 3 million of those living in the country illegally.

Yet what exactly Trump wants to do about illegal immigration remains hazy because he has said different things at different times. On Tuesday before his speech, for example, the president had signaled a potential shift in a private meeting with news anchors. He told them he was open to legislation that would give legal status to some people living illegally in the U.S. and provide a pathway to citizenship to people who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

But in his speech Tuesday night, the president omitted any such suggestion. He instead promised to target people living in the United States illegally who "threaten our communities" and prey on "innocent citizens."

Economists note that immigrants, including those working in the country without permission, play a vital role in the U.S. economy, and not only because they fill many low-paying jobs that Americans won't or can't do. The United States, like Japan and Western Europe, is being hobbled economically by an aging and slower-growing workforce. Economic growth depends on a steadily growing supply of workers.

But aging baby boomers are retiring. And an unusually large proportion of prime-age men have stopped looking for work. Nearly eight years after the end of the Great Recession, the unemployment rate has fallen to 4.8 percent, near what economists consider full employment.

As older Americans retire, younger ones are increasingly choosing to enroll in college rather than start work right out of high school. One result is that it's become harder for employers to fill the entry-level jobs that are often taken by immigrants living in the United State illegally.

Gitis reviewed the numbers and said he reached a striking conclusion: Suppose, he says, the United States were to deport or otherwise lose all the estimated 6.8 million immigrants working in the country illegally. At full employment, there wouldn't be enough legal workers to fill all those jobs. At least 4 million jobs would go unfilled.

Still, critics have often argued that low-wage immigrants in the United States end up depressing pay for everyone else. And economists have long wrangled over that possibility.

A paper issued last month by the National Bureau of Economic Research studied what happened in 1964 when the government cut the supply of seasonal Mexican farm workers entering the United States. By excluding the Mexicans, the move was supposed to create jobs for American farm workers and raise their wages.

But researchers Ethan Lewis of Dartmouth College and Michael Clemens and Hannah Postel of the Center for Global Development found that barring Mexican farm workers "failed to raise wages or substantially raise employment for domestic workers." Instead of hiring Americans, farms turned to machines to pick cotton and tomatoes and to tend to sugar beets.

Economist Ryan Edwards of Mills College says U.S. employers would likely shrink their businesses—rather than search in vain for legal workers—if they lost workers to mass deportations.

The cutbacks could take a heavy economic toll. Edwards and Francesc Ortega of the City University of New York estimate that immigrant workers living in the country illegally account for 3 percent of private gross domestic product—the broadest measure of economic output—or nearly $5 trillion over 10 years.

Mass deportations could impose other costs as well. Gitis estimates that the government would have to spend $400 billion to $600 billion to deport all those living in the United States without permission and to prevent future illegal immigration.

IRS: Deadline near to get $1 billion unclaimed 2013 refunds

WASHINGTON (AP)—If you didn't file a tax return for 2013, the IRS might have a refund waiting for you. But the deadline to claim it is only a few weeks away.

The IRS says it has $1 billion in unclaimed refunds from the 2013 tax year. They are owed to about 1 million taxpayers.

Under federal law, there is no fine for failing to file a tax return—as long as you are owed a refund. But taxpayers have only three years to claim them. After that, they are forfeited to the U.S. Treasury.

Tax returns for 2013 were due in April 2014, so the deadline for claiming the refunds is this year's tax day, which falls on April 18.

"People across the nation haven't filed tax returns to claim these refunds, and their window of opportunity is closing soon," IRS Commissioner John Koskinen said in a statement. "Students and many others may not realize they're due a tax refund. Remember, there's no penalty for filing a late return if you're due a refund."

Also, many low- and-moderate income workers might have been eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, which families can claim even if they owed no income tax.

The IRS estimates that the median unclaimed refund is $763, meaning that half are larger and half are smaller.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-17-017
KOBLERVILLE SUMP ABANDONMENT AND WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Koblerville Sump Abandonment and Water System Improvements in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of new installation of new transmission and distribution lines, cut and cap of existing lines and tapping to existing mains. The work also includes the installation of air relief valves, new sample taps, and asphalt pavement restoration, etc. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **220 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **March 8, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "*CUC-IFB-17-017, Koblerville Sump Abandonment and Water System Improvements"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 23rd, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 10, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and to Travis Spaeth, CUC Project Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org .

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

COMMUNITY SUPERVISION PROVIDER
Announcement # JVA17-012

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the supervision of the Drug Court Manager in the Drug Court Division on Saipan which actively monitors drug court participants outside of the drug court setting including conducting home and job visits. All clients contact is documented and visits logged to help encourage positive participant behavior. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Ensures random drug testing and community supervision practices are in accordance with Drug Court policies and procedures;
- Performs all assigned duties relating to cases scheduled for drug court hearings;
- Coordinates criminal background checks for drug court participants;
- Gathers and evaluates data pertinent to individual cases from resource areas like the participants' home, school, church, social agencies, neighborhood contacts, etc.
- Documents facts with respect to the drug court participants' activities, behavior, and quality of adjustment while on supervision;
- Reports investigative findings conducted by assigned Drug Court law enforcement officer (s) to drug court and prepares recommendations for the proper case disposition;
- Appears in drug court hearings with the ability to provide testimony on drug court cases;
- Provides periodic interviews of participants to determine effectiveness of Drug Court mandates, supervision, counseling, etc.
- Maintains ongoing relationship with participants throughout the duration of the program;
- Follows Court policy for monitoring payments ordered by the Drug Court. The payments to be monitored include, but are not limited to, drug court fees, restitution, fine, child supports, etc.;
- Plans office activities, conferences and field visits in connection with investigation and supervision functions;
- Maintains accurate, neat, legible and up to date case records in the prescribed form;
- Attends public relations activities such as community group meetings, conference, panel discussions, and other related forums;
- Responsible for and conducts gender-specific, observed drug testing in accordance with CNMI Drug Court protocols;
- Continually assess and review supervision and drug testing protocols and terms and conditions of supervision regularly to ensure they are still working for the target populations; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and have obtained a bachelors degree from a recognized college or university in the criminal or behavioral science field. Also, have been the beneficiary of training in law enforcement and be able to write reports.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be $25,000 - $28,000 per annum.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This internal job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Nation

Trump's immigration mixed message draws skepticism

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump surprised congressional leaders when he suddenly suggested he was open to broad immigration reform. But while there is appetite on Capitol Hill for legislation, there is also skepticism, and the president's hard-line rhetoric over the past two years could make a compromise bill much harder.

Trump signaled a potential shift on Tuesday in a private meeting with news anchors. He told them he was open to legislation that would give legal status to some people living in the U.S. illegally and provide a pathway to citizenship to those brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

Those private comments raised expectations that he might make a similar call in his prime-time address. Instead, Trump pledged to vigorously target people living in the U.S. illegally who "threaten our communities" and prey on "innocent citizens," words similar to his campaign speeches.

The mixed messaging underscored the uncertainty about the president's intentions, and drew a mixed reaction on Capitol Hill. While some in his party could welcome a new push for comprehensive immigration reform, it's far from clear exactly what that might entail. Trump spent his campaign whipping his supporters into a frenzy on the issue, painting a picture of a nation overrun by violent people living here illegally, committing crimes and stealing American jobs.

That's left many Democrats skeptical and Republicans on both sides of the issue appearing to hear what they want.

"I hope that it opens the door for comprehensive immigration reform, which we obviously feel is vital," said Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona, who was a member of the so-called Gang of Eight that spearheaded a 2013 immigration bill that ultimately failed after passing the Senate.

Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., another Gang of Eight member, said he was encouraged by Trump's remarks—less in the speech than what came out earlier. He said the time was ripe for action, despite Trump's past rhetoric denouncing "illegal amnesty."

"Only Nixon could go to China, I think there are parallels there," said Flake. That was a reference to President Richard Nixon's 1972 meeting with Mao Zedong, now a political metaphor for a leader taking an action that his supporters would typically condemn if taken by someone from another party.

Flake suggested that Trump could "come out and say, 'All right, we've got to solve this. We're not going to deport 11 million people. There are people out there afraid. ... Why don't we get something we can agree on? Now's the time."

Was Trump tribute to fallen Navy SEAL fitting or calculated?

CHICAGO (AP)—The televised moment moved a nation: A grief-stricken widow clasping her hands and looking skyward, tears streaming down her face as the nation's lawmakers and president delivered a deafening standing ovation in honor of her fallen husband.

President Donald Trump's tribute to Navy SEAL William "Ryan" Owens during Tuesday's congressional address was seen by many as touching. But others regarded it as a calculated attempt to deflect criticism of his decision to approve a failed military operation and to turn around his administration's shaky start with a gesture that sought to unify a deeply divided country.

Social media was abuzz with both praise and criticism.

Trump was praised on Twitter as giving "the greatest respect to Carryn Owens" and for moving "viewers to tears with his love for our fallen military."

But others said Trump was responsible for Owens' death and criticized the "exploitation of his widow for last night's dog and pony show."

Perceptions of the gesture likely depended on whether viewers trust Trump, said Matthew Dallek, a political management professor at The George Washington University and speechwriter for former Democratic U.S. Rep. Richard Gephardt.

"Whether he seems to be exploiting (Owens') death or it seems to be heartfelt and genuine very much depends on one's political view and whether or not you trust Trump," Dallek said. "If you voted for him, you think he's honoring a patriot and this is powerful. If ... you don't trust him and don't approve of his presidency so far, I don't think this changes very much."

Trump is following in the footsteps of many presidents who have introduced guests to help make a political point. But Tuesday's tribute was potentially more fraught because Owens' father has refused to meet with Trump and called for an investigation into the Yemen raid that took his son's life.

Owens, a 36-year-old married father of three, was the first known U.S. combat casualty since Trump took office, and his death, as well as the killing of several civilians, raised questions about the effectiveness of the raid. Trump used the tribute to insist again that Owen's death was not in vain, saying he helped gather significant intelligence.

Trump's gesture could have been genuine and calculated at the same time, said Elizabeth Sherman, a political science professor at American University. He likely knew that it would be difficult to criticize the tribute because Carryn Owens accepted his invitation and the chance for the nation to honor her husband's sacrifice.

"I think Trump figured this was a brilliant PR move. How can you lose?" Sherman said.

But Ryan Owens "might have been alive" if there had been a deeper assessment of the raid's risks, she said. "No one wants to say that" amid Carryn Owens' grief.

Dallek said Trump also might have inflamed the politics around Owens' death when he again insisted that valuable information was gathered in the raid, despite reports to the contrary.

"He could have invited Owens' widow, acknowledged her sacrifice and her husband's heroism and really left it at that," Dallek said. "But he's got to justify the raid as incredibly successful and one that is going to help him kill the terrorists."

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282
Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 *et seq*), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes
1. January 19, 2017 Regular Meeting
2. February 7, 2017 Regular Meeting
E. Correspondence

II. Public Comments**

III. Presentation of MAN Signapore

IV. Management Reports
A. Executive Director
1. Update on SO1 and SO2 Projects
2. Update on EPA Grant Projects
B. Deputy Executive Director
C. Chief Financial Officer
D. Legal Counsel

V. Executive Session***
A. Consultation with Legal Counsel on legal matters relating to Contracts, Personnel and Operations

VI. Board Reports/Miscellaneous Administrative Matters/New Business
A. Personnel Committee
B. Operation Committee

VI. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
CPA-RS-001-17

Date of Issuance:	February 24, 2017
Mandatory Pre-proposal Meeting	March 10, 2017
Questions & Clarifications due date	March 10, 2017
Proposal Due Date	March 17, 2017

"Administrative Building Cargo Bay and Dock Floor Slab Repairs West Harbor, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

The Proposal Package and other considerations may be picked up at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All questions and/or clarifications shall be directed in writing to Mr. Chris Tenorio or email at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com with copy to Fermin Flores at ferminf@cpa.gov.mp no later than March 10, 2017.

The provisions of the CPA Procurement Regulations, NMIAC Section §40-50-1020 and §40-50-1025 prohibiting gratuities, kickbacks and contingent fees shall apply.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: CPA-RFP-007-17

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 03, 2017 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

"PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS OF GENERATORS AT THE SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT & PORT OF SAIPAN"

PROPOSAL PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAIN AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING FEBRUARY 03, 2017, UPON PAYMENT OF $150.00 AT CPA ACCOUNTING OFFICE.

A PREPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 20, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE CPA PROCUREMENT OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, TERMINAL DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN AIRPORT.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND §40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
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INVITATION TO BID
CPA-IFB-005-17

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 17, 2017 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PROCUREMENT OF ONE TRACTOR AND MOWER FOR TINIAN AIRPORT, TINIAN

DELIVERY OF ONE TRACTOR & MOWER TO TINIAN AIRPORT SHALL BE 120 DAYS OR SOONER AFTER BID AWARD. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROCUREMENT SHALL BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING VIA EMAIL AT atudela@cpa.gov.mp (Alex Tudela/Procurement Officer) PRIOR TO MARCH 10, 2017.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE ORIGINAL BID AND 2 COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: "IFB FOR PROCUREMENT OF ONE TRACTOR & MOWER FOR TINIAN AIRPORT". BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 40-50-1020 AND 40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Asia

Malaysia to release, deport N. Korean in nerve agent probe

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A North Korean man will be released from custody because of lack of evidence connecting him to the fatal nerve agent attack on Kim Jong Nam, the estranged half brother of North Korea's ruler, Malaysian officials said Thursday. In a major fallout from the assassination, Malaysia also announced it was scrapping visa-free travel for North Koreans.

Officials never said why they arrested Ri Jong Chol four days after Kim was attacked at Kuala Lumpur's bustling airport. On Thursday, Malaysian Attorney General Mohamad Apandi Ali said Ri will be released and deported because he does not have valid travel documents.

The attack was caught on grainy security camera footage that showed two women smearing something on Kim's face as he waited for a flight in Kuala Lumpur on Feb. 13. Malaysian officials say the substance was VX nerve agent, a banned chemical weapon.

Kim was dead within an hour as the fast-acting poison coursed through his body, authorities say. No bystanders reported falling ill.

The poisoning has unleashed a serious diplomatic battle between Malaysia and North Korea. While it isn't one of Pyongyang's key diplomatic partners, Malaysia has been one of the few places in the world where North Koreans could travel without a visa. As a result, for years, it's been a quiet destination for Northerners looking for jobs, schools and business deals.

That could all begin to change in the wake of Kim's death.

AP

Media film and photograph a North Korean diplomatic vehicle leaving the North Korean embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Thursday, March 2, 2017.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Fukushima cleanup chief urges better use of probe robot

TOKYO (AP)—The head of decommissioning for the damaged Fukushima nuclear plant says more creativity in needed in developing robots to locate and assess the condition of melted fuel rods. Naohiro Masuda, president of Fukushima Dai-ichi decommissioning, said Thursday that more data is needed so they can develop a better strategy for removing debris. The plant will decide on a method this summer. Masuda said a robot sent inside the Unit 2 containment vessel last month could not reach as close to the core area as hoped, because it was blocked on its planned route by deposits. Masuda said he wants another probe sent in before deciding on methods to remove the reactor's debris. Unit 2 is one of the Fukushima reactors that melted down following the 2011 quake and tsunami.

Rights groups says Philippine police has falsified evidence

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A human rights watchdog on Thursday accused the police in the Philippines of falsifying evidence to justify unlawful killings in the government's war on drugs that has caused more than 7,000 deaths, and pointed the finger at President Rodrigo Duterte as being ultimately responsible. Human Rights Watch said in a report that Duterte and other senior officials instigated and incited the killings of drug suspects in a campaign that could amount to crimes against humanity. The United Nations should create an independent investigation to determine responsibility and ensure accountability, the report said. Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said the presidential palace will issue a statement later Thursday in response to the report. The report said police have repeatedly carried out extrajudicial killings of drug suspects, then falsely claimed self-defense, and planted guns, spent bullets or drugs on the bodies.

Pacific island nations call for UN report on Papua abuses

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Seven Pacific island nations have called for a U.N. investigation into allegations of human rights abuses in Indonesia's West Papua and Papua provinces, where a separatist movement has simmered for decades. A statement from a session of the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva, read on behalf of the seven states by Vanuatu's Justice Minister Ronald Warsal, accused Indonesia of serious human rights violations of indigenous Papuans. The statement called on the council to request a comprehensive report from the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Indonesia's cooperation in providing unfettered access to the two provinces, which independence supporters refer to collectively as West Papua. Pacific island leaders angered Indonesia last year when they used their speeches at the U.N. to criticize Jakarta's rule in West Papua

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ, F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIAANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- RAMON M. SAKISSAT, aka MARTIN RAMON M. SAKISAT, and the ESTATE OF FRANCISCA T. SAKISAT, Defendants.) CIVIL ACTION NO.: 14-0080

FIRST AMEMDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 8, 2016, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 005 I 523, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 748 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 2084/82, the original of which was registered with the Lands Registry as Document no. 14232 dated May 14, 1982, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 17, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 3rd day of February, 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ, F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIAANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- DENITA S. NAPUTI AND ALBERT RAY CEPEDA, Defendants) CIVIL ACTION NO.: 15-0139

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 14, 2016, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 011 G 336, situated in Kagman, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 788 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check no. 011 G 06 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4414, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 17, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 3rd day of February, 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ, F0122
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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- JOAQUIN CABRERA LIZAMA AND MARY FRANCES DANFORD-LIZAMA Defendants) CIVIL ACTION NO.: 15-0140

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 8, 2016, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 011 G 1220, situated in Kagman III, Phase IV, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 840 sqaure meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 23, the original of which was recorded on October 10, 1996, as Document no. 96-2566, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 17, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 3rd day of February, 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Food & Beverage Manager (1)
Qualifications: A degree in hotel and restaurant management is preferred plus minimum of 3 years experience as an Assistant F&B Manager or F&B Manager capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Strong background and experience in Food & Beverage preferably in the hospitality industry. Possess the ability to work quickly, accurately and independently in a fast-paced environment. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early morning, nights, weekends and holidays.

Room Reservations Supervisor (1)
Qualifications: Preferably college degree and must have 2 years of experience in Sales and Marketing or Tourism. Must know how to handle the room situations in case of over sell or over bookings, need to be familiar to hotel and agent policy, cut off days, agent room blockage and cancellations policy. Know how to protect the hotel, agent contract and their privacy. Must have excellent communication skills, good quality of customer service, and multi tasking skills are a must. Team player is a must. Capable of decision making and can work under pressure. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Guest Relations Supervisor (1)
Qualifications: Minimum 2 to 4 years supervisory work experience in Front Office of a hotel. High school diploma or general education degree; or 3 to 6 months related experience and /or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Ensure maximum guest satisfaction, and adhering to the standard requiring by the hotel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early morning, nights, weekends and holidays.

Guest Relations Agent (4)
Qualifications: Preferable some basic knowledge of travel/hotel industry. Minimum 3 to 6 months related work experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Ensure maximum guest satisfaction, and adhering to the standard requiring by the hotel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early morning, nights, weekends and holidays.

International Cook (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma; graduate from independent and vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes or a college degree in appropriate field or equivalent. At least 2 to 4 years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Knowledge of various international menu/dishes. Knowledge of techniques and equipment for planting, growing, and harvesting food products (both plant and animal) for consumption, including storage/handling techniques. Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Accountant (1)
Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with 2 years of progressive experience in accounting. Airline industry experience preferred. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, Peachtree and Microsoft software. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Accounting Manager (1)
Qualifications: College degree with financial management major and 3 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 5 years' experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, Peachtree and Microsoft software. CPA not required. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Lead Customer Service Agent (Airport) (5)
Qualifications: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience in passenger or customer service. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the supervisor, assisting passengers by answering inquiries regarding flight information/booking/reservations, checking-in out-bound passengers and luggage and assisting them in boarding flights, assisting in-bound passengers through immigration and customs. Must be computer-literate with excellent oral and written communication skills. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Must be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Customer Service Agent (Aircraft) (4)
Qualifications: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 2 years' experience in aircraft exterior and interior cleaning. Performs interior cleaning of various aircraft to include cabins, lavatories and galleys. Must be knowledgeable in the use of different kinds of cleaning equipment, tools and materials. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than March 16, 2017. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

World

Russia-backed rebels take over factories, mines in Ukraine

AP

In this Thursday, Aug. 6, 2015 file photo miners perform maintenance at the start of a shift at one of the Krasnodonugol coal mines in Krasnodon, eastern Ukraine.

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian-backed rebels are taking over scores of factories and mines in eastern Ukraine, many of them belonging to a tycoon whose foundation has been the largest provider of humanitarian aid to a war-battered population.

The moves announced Wednesday by the rebels came after a weekslong blockade of the east by Ukrainian nationalists and right-wingers. The blockade has seriously disrupted trade on both sides, cutting off much of the coal shipments to government-controlled territory and impeding shipments from the mills and factories that are the east's economic backbone.

The blockade has raised the already high tensions in Ukraine, where a war between government forces and separatist rebels has killed more than 9,800 people in eastern Ukraine since April 2014.

The Minsk agreement, a 2015 cease-fire pact that has been consistently violated, envisions the rebel-held Donetsk and Luhansk regions remaining in Ukraine, although with expanded local powers. But a recent surge in fighting, the blockade and Russia's decision last month to recognize passports and other documents issued by the rebels have threatened the goal of reintegrating the regions into Ukraine.

"We are proud that the blockade has hit the pockets of the occupiers. We should call it a war and stop ... all trade with the occupied territories," parliament member Semen Semenchenko, a blockade advocate, told The Associated Press.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's government has spoken against the blockade, saying it hurts ordinary Ukrainians in the rest of the country by cutting off coal shipments from separatist regions and creating power shortages. However, it has taken no action to break it, fearing to challenge the nationalist groups.

Poroshenko on Wednesday described the rebel takeover of the industrial assets in the east as a de-facto confiscation and a sign of Russia's "occupation" of the separatist territories. He called for Western sanctions against those involved in the assets' seizure.

Donetsk rebel leader Alexander Zakharchenko told local media on Wednesday that in retaliation for Kiev's blockade, the rebels have taken over the management of 40 factories and coal mines. They include those owned by tycoon Rinat Akhmetov, who is regarded as Ukraine's richest person.

His Metinvest holding company announced last week that it had stopped operations at a steel mill and a coal mine because of the blockade. Stopping all of the company's operations could throw 20,000 people out of work, Metinvest said.

There were no immediate reports detailing how management was being taken over by rebels.

Akhmetov's foundation said in a statement that its work in the region was paralyzed after rebels blocked access to Akhmetov's Shakhtar FC arena in the rebel capital of Donetsk, which hosted the 2012 European soccer championships and now serves as a warehouse for the relief effort.

UN panel alleges Aleppo war crimes; Syria talks inch forward

GENEVA (AP)—A U.N. panel said Wednesday the evacuation of eastern Aleppo, after months of siege and aerial bombing by Russian and Syrian forces, was one of many war crimes committed by those fighting for control of the city.

The findings came amid open-ended peace talks mediated by a U.N. envoy, and could bolster opposition demands for a political transition in which Syrian President Bashar Assad would cede power—something the government has adamantly rejected.

But in a sign of moderate progress, after almost a week of meetings, the sides appear to have signed off on the agenda proposed by U.N. Syrian envoy Staffan de Mistura: separate "baskets" of topics covering the issues of governance, elections and constitutions.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Gennady Gatilov told reporters in Geneva that "the parties have agreed to ... discuss all issues in a parallel way, on several tracks." After a Damascus request, the issue of terrorism, is also on the table, he said.

The official Syrian news agency SANA said the government delegation had held "deep" and "fruitful" discussions over the "basic principles" for the political solution in Syria and succeeded in incorporating terrorism as a topic of discussion.

De Mistura held back-to-back meetings with the government delegation and the main Syrian opposition Wednesday. He seemed in good spirits, but declined to comment on whether all sides had agreed on his agenda.

"We will see in the next two days," he told The Associated Press.

Further talks are scheduled for Thursday.

Meanwhile, Yahya Kadamani, a prominent member of the largest opposition mission in Geneva, said his delegation had a "positive" meeting with the Russian minister. Opposition delegates, he said, used the meeting to push Moscow for a change of approach in Syria.

"We want them to be neutral and not an enemy to Syria," he said. "We want them to put pressure and be guarantors to the process of political transition."

Earlier in the day, the Commission of Inquiry on Syria unveiled a report looking at violations by all parties in last year's battle for Aleppo, including indiscriminate bombing of civilian areas, and the use of chemical agents and cluster munitions. A stinging bombing campaign by the Russia and Syrian air force, coupled with the denial of humanitarian aid, drove rebels in the city to finally surrender.

"The scale of what happened in Aleppo is unprecedented in the Syrian conflict," said the commission's chairman, Paulo Pinheiro.

Iraqi forces push toward Mosul government complex

MOSUL, Iraq (AP)—An Iraqi commander says his troops are within 800 meters (900 yards) of the main government complex in the northern city of Mosul, the capture of which would mark a symbolic victory against the Islamic State group.

Maj. Gen Thamir al-Hussaini, of Iraq's elite rapid response units, said his forces were advancing along the Tigris River after retaking one of the city's five damaged bridges. He said the capture of the bridge could shorten supply lines and allow civilians in western Mosul, where heavy fighting is underway, to flee to the government-controlled eastern half of the city.

"In the coming day we will clear the government buildings," he told reporters in Abu Saif, a village outside Mosul.

Inside the city, residents described Iraqi forces' hold on the area as much more tenuous.

Within a few hundred meters (yards) of the bridge, makeshift roadblocks set up to prevent car bombs were still in place, preventing civilian and military traffic.

Muhammad Salah, a resident of a recently retaken neighborhood nearby said the bridge and the main road effectively mark the current front-line in the fight. He pointed to plumes of black smoke visible a few blocks away, saying they were from cars along the main road set alight by the militants to conceal their positions from aircraft flying overhead.

"None of the main road has been liberated yet," he said, as black ash drifted down on his garden like a light snow.

Cpl. Hussein Ishaq, of the rapid response units, described the battle for the neighborhood as "simple," saying IS defenses were light and that his forces cleared the district in a single day.

Muhammad Abbas, a member of the militarized Federal Police, pointed to a street corner next to a garden full of fruit trees. "There were two IS fighters there, one with a suicide belt," he said. "A coalition plane saw them and killed them with an airstrike."

Off The Wall

Widow: Queens mural of Rodney Dangerfield 'less-than-flattering'

NEW YORK (AP)—Rodney Dangerfield made a career out of getting "no respect." His widow contends he's not getting much in death, either.

NY1 television reports that Joan Dangerfield doesn't think a mural in his old New York City neighborhood does him justice.

Artist Francesca Robicci painted the mural last year in Queens, working from a photo provided by Dangerfield.

Dangerfield also donated $1,000 toward the project, which was commissioned by a community group.

A letter from her lawyer calls the image "less-than-flattering" and says Rodney Dangerfield "deserves nothing but the highest respect."

The artist says she worked for free and is heartbroken but is willing to return to New York City from Italy to do some cosmetic work.

Residents were divided on the comedic controversy.

"I think you could have softened it," Gillian Archer said. "Nobody likes a double chin."

Flynn McLean thinks the mural should stay.

"I would not want to see that mural removed just because it's not the most flattering" likeness, said McLean, who added that Dangerfield "wasn't the best-looking guy in the world."

In this Feb. 10, 1997 file photo, actor and comedian Rodney Dangerfield poses for a photo in Las Vegas. AP

The comedian, who died in 2004 at 82, obviously could not be reached for comment. But his hangdog shtick still runs amok on the website Rodney.com.

"I tell ya when I was a kid, I got no respect," says one of his famously self-deprecating jokes posted there. "My old man took me to a freak show. They said, 'Get the kid out, he's distracting from the show.'"

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Old mold from penicillin discoverer auctioned for $14,617

LONDON (AP)—How much is an old, dried out piece of mold worth? Apparently more than $14,600 if it was created by the doctor who discovered penicillin. The nearly 90-year-old swatch of mold has a rather extraordinary history: It came from the laboratory of Dr. Alexander Fleming whose revolutionary discovery brought the world its first antibiotic, credited with saving millions of lives worldwide. The patchy bit of mold from his niece's collection was auctioned in London on Wednesday for 11,875 pounds ($14,617). The buyer was not identified. The mold is preserved in a round glass case and features an inscription by Fleming on the back, describing it as "the mould that first made penicillin." That, however, may be a stretch. The Scottish-born doctor likely made at least dozens of such mold mementos, derived from his original sample of the fungus.

Austria: Man tries to enter courthouse with bag of roaches

VIENNA (AP)—Security guards at an Austrian court might need to put up a sign at the screening gate to let the public know about another item prohibited on the premises—cockroaches. State broadcaster ORF said Wednesday that security personnel in the western city of Linz turned away a man a day earlier after he tried to enter the court building with a sack full of the six-legged pests. ORF did not say why the man had the roaches or what he planned to do with them.

Eek! Mouse delays London-to-San Francisco flight for 4 hours

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—How he squeaked through security is anyone's guess. A little mouse made for a big delay on a British Airways flight from London to San Francisco. The passengers were all buckled up and ready to go when the crew told them that a mouse-spotting meant they couldn't take off. The crew joked that the mouse couldn't enter US airspace without a passport, and told everyone they needed a whole new plane. That meant a four-hour delay. They told KGO-TV in San Francisco after the flight arrived Wednesday that despite the delay most passengers were happy to be on a mouse-free aircraft, especially knowing they'd be eating on the flight. British Airways apologized and said they were satisfied that only two-legged passengers were on the flight once it took off.

Hawk stuck in vehicle grille in Massachusetts is euthanized

GRAFTON, Mass. (AP)—Veterinarians say a red-tailed hawk that got stuck in the grille of a vehicle in Massachusetts last weekend sustained such severe injuries that it had to be euthanized. Police say the bird got stuck after swooping in front of an SUV on Interstate 495 in Milford on Saturday. The driver pulled into a gas station and Milford firefighters used a thick blanket and gloves to free the bird. The hawk was taken to the wildlife clinic at Tufts University's Cummings Veterinary Medical Center in Grafton, where veterinarians determined it had suffered eye injuries, as well as fractures to both wings and tail. It was unable to stand. Clinic director Florina Tseng says the hawk was in significant pain and it was determined that it could not be saved. It was euthanized Tuesday.

Science & Technology

TECH Q&A

Fixing Windows 7 and finding lost data

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: In January, I upgraded my Dell Windows 7 laptop to the "assistive technologies" version of Windows 10, which is designed for people with disabilities. After five days, I decided that I preferred Windows 7 and tried to revert to it. However, Windows 7 failed to start and I got the message: "A required device isn't connected or can't be accessed; Status: 0xc000000f." It also said I could insert the Windows 7 installation disk to proceed.

But I don't have a Windows 7 disk. I didn't get one with the PC, I never made one and Dell says my five-year-old PC no longer qualifies to download a copy of Windows 7. Can I make a Windows 7 backup disk on my desktop PC that I can use on the laptop?—Larry Salzman, Minneapolis

A: When downgrading goes awry, there are some free ways to fix the problem. For you, the easiest method is to use your desktop Windows 7 PC to create a "system repair disk," then use the disk to fix Windows 7 on your laptop.

(Why not just create a Windows 7 installation disk with your desktop PC, then reinstall Windows 7 on the laptop? Because Microsoft makes it difficult to copy Windows from one PC to another.)

To create the system repair disk, click the Start button on the desktop PC, choose Control Panel and click "system and security." Then click "backup and restore." On the next screen, click "create a system repair disk." The repair data is then copied to a blank CD or DVD disk.

Put that disk in the laptop's CD or DVD drive and restart the PC. If necessary, press any key on the keyboard to make the PC boot up from the system repair disk. When prompted, choose your language setting and click Next. Then select "start-up repair" and click Next.

If the repair process doesn't work, use your desktop PC to download a free copy of Windows 7 from Microsoft and store it on a USB flash drive or a DVD disk. To do that you'll need the Windows "product key," a code that came with your laptop (see tinyurl.com/q7p2g7e). Note that this will be a "clean install" of Windows 7 that will erase everything on your laptop.

Q: Before my Windows 7 PC crashed, I had backed up my data to an external hard drive. But now I can't transfer those files to my new Windows 10 PC. All the backup file names end in ". wim," and I don't have a program that will open them. What can I do?—Ted Richert, Miami Shores, Fla.

A: Your files are accessible. The problem is that you've used the wrong backup process. Instead of backing up just your individual files, you've created a "system image" of the entire Windows 7 hard disk. That image (. wim stands for stands for Windows Imaging Format) contains not just your personal files, but the Windows 7 operating system and all your PC programs.

That's useful if you'd needed to completely restore the hard drive on your Windows 7 PC. But it can't be used on a different computer. So, the only way to retrieve your data is to open the. wim files and copy the personal data that's currently locked inside.

To open the files, download the free program "Easy 7-Zip" at tinyurl.com/h5wk-9bp. Then go to tinyurl.com/jsr9wzz and read the directions under "Open/Extract WIM File on Windows."

Science Matters
Illustration by Dinghua Yang
Dear old Mom ...
25 extra vertebrae in long neck
Ancient animals not as we thought
The fossils of two prehistoric creatures have startled paleontologists – one was an ocean dinosaur that bore live young instead of laying eggs, and one was a venomous mammal.
Embryo
Dangerous dinosaur carried her young
Dinocephalosaurus
Lived 245 million years ago
(Middle Triassic, early Dinosaur Age)
Fossil found in southwest China
Its group first evolved about 260 million years ago; survive today as birds and crocodilians
Unlike crocodiles, sex of young determined by hormones, not egg temperature
Up to about 3.8 m (12.5 ft.) long
Lived full-time in shallow sea, presumably ate fish and squid
Embryo, about 12% of mother's length, found in abdomen of fossil
Mammals had venom before snakes did
Fossil of skull
NOSE
Cavities held poison glands
Fossil was found in South Africa
Euchambersia
Lived 260 million years ago, almost 100 million years before first snakes
Dog-sized "therapsid" pre-mammal
Snakes evolved 167 million years ago
Poison glands
Ridges on fang carried venom
Source: Jonathan Aitchison of University of Queensland (Australia); Julien Benoit of University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

HONORING GREAT WORK CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imperial Pacific International, Ltd.,'s majority shareholder Margaret Cui Lijie hosted a special dinner the other evening to honor the winners of the Cultural Heritage Month Photography Contest. They are Vaniqa Torres of the Saipan Seventh Day Adventist School, Tviann Masimewai of Kagman Elementary School, Seiji Gonzalels of ChaCha Oceanview Middle School, and Taj Salas of Saipan Southern High School. In this photo, the winners proudly display Cui's collection of photographs that were handed out as a gift of appreciation to the students-winners. Also in the photo is Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, who also joined the honorees.

Accountants in Oscar mistake are off the show

The president of the film academy says the two accountants responsible for the best-picture flub at Sunday's Academy Awards will never work the Oscars again. She also laments that the error overshadowed a show that celebrated a rich diversity of talent and storytelling.

Breaking her silence four days after the biggest blunder in the 89-year history of the Academy Awards, Cheryl Boone Isaacs praised the show's producers and host Wednesday for "a most beautiful, beautiful, wonderful evening."

"Then, of course, there was the last 90 seconds," Boone Isaacs said. "And what angered me, I would say, in these last couple days is (the focus on) this 90 seconds and moving to the side the brilliance of the day."

The academy president told The Associated Press that Brian Cullinan and Martha Ruiz, the PwC accountants who handled the winners' envelopes at Sunday's show, have been permanently removed from all film academy dealings.

While Cullinan was responsible for handing over the errant envelope that led to "La La Land" mistakenly being announced as best picture rather than "Moonlight," PwC said both partners failed to follow protocols and did not act quickly enough to catch the error.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' relationship with PwC, which has been responsible for tallying and revealing Oscar winners for 83 years, remains under review, Boone Isaacs said.

Cullinan was distracted backstage, she said. He tweeted (and later deleted) a photo of Emma Stone in the wings with her new Oscar minutes before giving presenters Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway the wrong envelope for best picture.

"They have one job to do. One job to do!" Boone Isaacs said. "Obviously there was a distraction."

PwC released a statement late Sunday and another Monday taking "full responsibility for the series of mistakes and breaches of established protocols" during the Oscar show.

"Once the error occurred, protocols for correcting it were not followed through quickly enough by Mr. Cullinan or his partner," the statement said. Both partners remain with the company, a PwC spokesman said Wednesday.

Protocols for handling the winners' envelopes had been established by the accounting firm, Boone Isaacs said, "and they have worked for 83 years."

"We are reviewing those protocols, of course," she said. "Because it never happened before and we never are going to have it happen again. And we are setting new guidelines, new protocols and really re-examining every step to make sure this never ever, ever happens."

Though the academy released a statement late Monday apologizing to the artists of "Moonlight" and "La La Land," Boone Isaacs said she waited to say more until her team had a better understanding of what led to the error.

"You need to get some facts under your belt," she said. "It needs to be not just an emotional response. It needs to have some sort of clarity. ... We wanted to say something right away, but we also didn't want to misspeak."

She commended show producers Jennifer Todd and Michael De Luca, presenters Beatty and Dunaway and host Jimmy Kimmel for handling the unprecedented situation so gracefully.

"Warren, he took charge there," Boone Isaacs said. "He took charge of a situation that he did not create."

She also lauded "La La Land" producer Jordan Horowitz, who she said "went from a nominee to a winner to a presenter" in a matter of minutes.

Still holding the Oscar, he thought he'd won, Horowitz was the first to announce that "Moonlight" was the actual best picture recipient.

Though unexpected, having the casts of two films onstage at the end of the Oscar show revealed "the very best" of Hollywood, Boone Isaacs said: "And that is a camaraderie and respect for each other."

"It's important to remember that that is what this is all about," she said.

Also on Wednesday, the academy addressed another embarrassment on Sunday's show, apologizing to the Australian movie producer incorrectly shown during the in memoriam segment.

In a statement, the academy extended "our deepest apologies" to producer Jan Chapman, whose photo was mistakenly used in the tribute instead of Chapman's colleague and friend, the late Janet Patterson. Chapman had said she was "devastated" by the error.

Boone Isaacs said she regrets that the best-picture flub has overshadowed the show and its diverse array of winners. After two years of "OscarsSoWhite," with all white acting nominees, Sunday's ceremony recognized several actors and writers of color, and named a tender film about a gay black boy best picture. It followed two years of extensive reform to improve inclusion within the academy.

"Going back to the brilliance of the show, as well as a year of conversation about Hollywood today and the evolution of Hollywood in so many different ways, and to culminate in such a beautiful evening," she said. "It (attention on the flub) was beyond disappointing."

And though she's ready for public attention to shift back to the winning films rather than the errant envelope, Boone Isaacs appreciates that so many people care about the Academy Awards. ***(AP)***

Beloved railroad seen in 'La La Land' chugging back to life

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Angels Flight, LA's beloved little railroad, had its cameo in the hit musical "La La Land" and now it's almost ready for its close-up.

The narrow-gauge railroad that for more than a century hauled people 298 feet up and down the city's steep Bunker Hill was shut down in 2013 after a series of mishaps, including a crash that killed a rider.

At a news conference Wednesday, Mayor Eric Garcetti said those issues are being resolved and the railroad's antique wooden cars, named Sinai and Olivet, should be back in service by Labor Day. They'll be operated by a public-private partnership between the nonprofit Angels Flight Foundation and the private company ACS Infrastructure Development.

"As anyone who has seen 'La La Land' can tell you, dreams do still come true here in Los Angeles," Garcetti said exuberantly as dozens of cheering Angels Flight fans crowded together with reporters to hear his announcement just outside the railway's bottom-of-the-hill station.

The railroad's resurrection has been planned for months, but it may have gotten an unexpected boost when moviegoers saw Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling riding happily in one of the cars in "La La Land." Many took to social media to ask why they couldn't ride too.

That scene was just one of several film shoots the funicular has appeared in, said John Wellborne, past chairman of the Angels Flight Railway Foundation. But, he added with a chuckle, "It got a lot more attention than we anticipated."

Meanwhile, some work still needs to be done before the cars can move again under an agreement reached with the state Public Utilities Commission.

That includes upgrading its funicular system in which the two cars' counterbalancing weights allow one to be pulled up safely while the other is lowered. An emergency ramp must also be installed next to the railroad tracks so that if the cars break down in mid-run, as they did in 2013, firefighters won't have to rescue the passengers this time.

Oscar winner Affleck speaks about sexual harassment claims

NEW YORK (AP)—In an interview following his Oscar win on Sunday, Casey Affleck addressed earlier sexual harassment claims against him and said "everyone deserves to be treated with respect in the workplace and everywhere else."

The "Manchester by the Sea" star had largely evaded questions about the two lawsuits brought against him while making the 2010 mockumentary "I'm Still Here," which he directed. The settlement of each case prevents each party from discussing the accusations. Affleck has denied the allegations.

In an interview posted Tuesday night by *The Boston Globe*, Affleck said, "I believe that any kind of mistreatment of anyone for any reason is unacceptable and abhorrent, and everyone deserves to be treated with respect in the workplace and anywhere else."

Asked about those who have criticized his Academy Award win, Affleck said there was "nothing I can do about it other than live my life the way I know I live it and to speak to what my own values are and how I try to live by them all the time."

AP

Casey Affleck poses in the press room with the award for best actor in a leading role for "Manchester by the Sea" at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Katy Perry, Orlando Bloom break up to take 'loving space'

Pop star Katy Perry and actor Orlando Bloom are breaking up after about a year together. Representatives for Perry and Bloom released a statement Wednesday saying the couple "are taking respectful, loving space at this time." Bloom's film credits include "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy. He was previously married to supermodel Miranda Kerr. Perry is currently promoting her new single "Chained to the Rhythm" and has had hits with "I Kissed a Girl" and "California Gurls." ***(AP)***

Kennedy Center appoints first director of hip hop culture

WASHINGTON (AP)—The director of programming at Harlem Stage in New York is heading to Washington to become the first director of hip hop culture at the Kennedy Center. The Kennedy Center announced the appointment of Simone Eccleston on Wednesday. She'll start on March 13. The move is part of a push by the Kennedy Center to incorporate more hip hop into its programming. Last year, the center named rapper Q-Tip as its artistic director for hip hop. Q-Tip is one of the founding members of A Tribe Called Quest. Eccleston will also oversee other contemporary music programming at the Kennedy Center in genres including rhythm and blues, folk, world music and Latin music. In a statement, she calls the Kennedy Center's commitment to hip hop programming "deeply significant."

Nielsen: Nearly 48 million watch Trump's address to nation

NEW YORK (AP)—President Donald Trump's first major address to the Congress and the nation was seen by an estimated 47.4 million people. The Nielsen company said Wednesday that Trump's audience couldn't quite match the first such speech by predecessor Barack Obama, who drew an audience of 52.4 million in 2009. Fox News Channel had the biggest audience for Trump's speech Tuesday night, with 10.8 million viewers. NBC's 9.1 million ranked second, followed in order of popularity by CBS, ABC, CNN, Univision, Fox broadcasting and MSNBC. The moment that drew the most interactions on Twitter came after Trump talked about fallen Navy SEAL William "Ryan" Owens with his widow looking on. Similar initial presidential speeches reached 39.8 million for George W. Bush in 2001 and 66.9 million for Bill Clinton in 1993.

Icahn selling Trump Taj Mahal casino to Hard Rock

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Billionaire investor Carl Icahn reached a deal Wednesday to sell the shuttered Trump Taj Mahal casino in Atlantic City to Hard Rock International and two New Jersey investors. The sale comes four months after Icahn closed it amid a crippling strike. A sale price was not revealed. "We are excited to be part of this revitalization of Atlantic City creating thousands of jobs to help local employment," Jim Allen, chairman of Hard Rock International, said in a statement. "We are 100 percent convinced Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Atlantic City will be a success." He said the company plans to invest $300 million in renovating and rebranding the property. Icahn, who also owns Atlantic City's Tropicana Casino and Resort, said he decided one casino in town is enough. He said in January he had lost about $300 million owning the Taj Mahal, and would be delighted if he could sell it for half that amount.

Academy apologizes for in memoriam mistake

NEW YORK (AP)—The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has apologized to the Australian movie producer it incorrectly showed during Sunday's Oscars in memoriam reel. In a statement Wednesday, the film academy extended "our deepest apologies" to producer Jan Chapman, whose photo was mistakenly used in the tribute instead of Chapman's colleague and friend, the late Janet Patterson. Chapman had said she was "devastated" by the error. Patterson, an Australian costume designer and four-time Oscar nominee ("The Piano," ''Bright Star"), passed away in October last year. Patterson and Chapman worked together on "The Piano." The academy also updated the in memoriam reel on the website for the Oscars.

Jessica Lange to receive lifetime arts award in Rhode Island

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Jessica Lange is being honored with a lifetime achievement award from a Rhode Island theater group. The Trinity Repertory Company says it will award the actress its Pell Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts at a ceremony at Providence's WaterFire Arts Center on May 22. Lange made her film debut in a 1976 version of "King Kong" and went on to play a wide variety of roles in film and TV and on the stage. She has won two Academy Awards, three Emmys, five Golden Globes and one Tony Award. The 67-year-old actress was previously married to ballet dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov, and their daughter runs a Rhode Island dance company. Other actors who have won the theater group's lifetime achievement award include Viola Davis, Robert Redford and Liza Minnelli.

After years of pinching pennies couple has cause to celebrate

DEAR ABBY: Our house will soon be paid off. My husband and I would like to have a party to celebrate, but we're not sure if we should.

None of our friends are anywhere close to paying off their mortgages. We made the choice to drive old cars while our friends all have beautiful new ones, and we were genuinely happy for them each time they proudly showed them off.

I'm a stay-at-home mom, and I am our friends' emergency contact for their kids at school. They have taken amazing vacations, and we have enjoyed their stories and photographs. We used the time and money trips would have cost to stay home and work on projects around the house. We haven't envied them; we just had different goals.

Should we celebrate this—just the two of us, or with our friends?

DIFFERENT GOALS IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR DIFFERENT GOALS: True friends celebrate each other's victories. With no more mortgage to pay, you and your husband will now be able to enjoy some of the things your friends have been enjoying all these years. While some couples would prefer to mark the occasion with a special dinner at a nice restaurant, if you're inclined to do otherwise, then throw a party. You deserve it.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to a wonderful man for 38 years. The issue is that sometimes I get insanely jealous. It isn't an everyday occurrence, but I become insecure because I feel my husband is too attractive to other women.

My husband is very outgoing and I am an introvert. I find myself accusing him, and he tells me I need to stop it. He reassures me that I'm the only woman he loves and wants in his life.

I don't want to destroy our wonderful marriage. I consider myself attractive. I need to stop letting my lack of self-confidence get the best of me. Please help.

INSECURE IN OHIO

DEAR INSECURE: I wish I could wave a magic wand and make your feelings magically disappear, but I can't. The answer to your problem lies in finding out the cause of your deep-seated insecurity, because that's what triggers your jealousy. Until you do, nothing will change. A licensed mental health professional can help you get to the root of it and provide the tools to deal with it. Your physician should be able to refer you to someone who is qualified.

DEAR ABBY: I've been with my husband for five years, but we've been married only for a year. He told me a few months ago that his ex-girlfriend said he is the father of her child. We did a home DNA test and it showed he is not the father. In spite of that, my husband insists he still wants to take care of the child. I don't know what to do. Please help.

THROWN IN NEW YORK

DEAR THROWN: It appears that what your husband wants is to maintain a close tie to the child's mother, because that is what will happen if he takes financial responsibility for her child. Tell your husband you want to discuss this with the help of a professional mediator, preferably a marriage counselor. If he refuses, talk to an attorney because you may be needing one.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

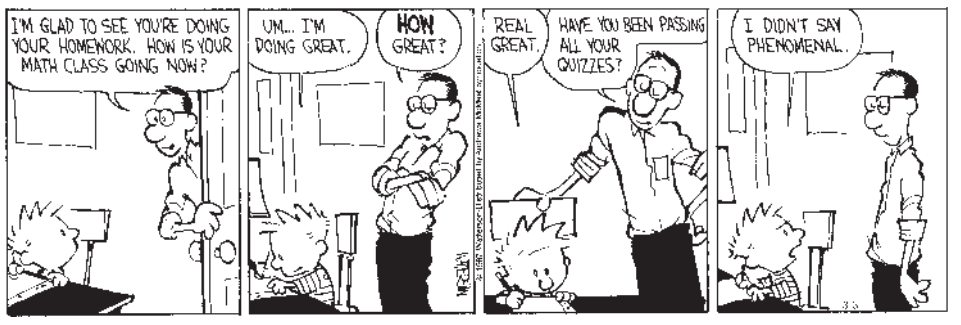
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE DOING YOUR HOMEWORK. HOW IS YOUR MATH CLASS GOING NOW?
UM... I'M DOING GREAT.
HOW GREAT?
REAL GREAT.
HAVE YOU BEEN PASSING ALL YOUR QUIZZES?
I DIDN'T SAY PHENOMENAL.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

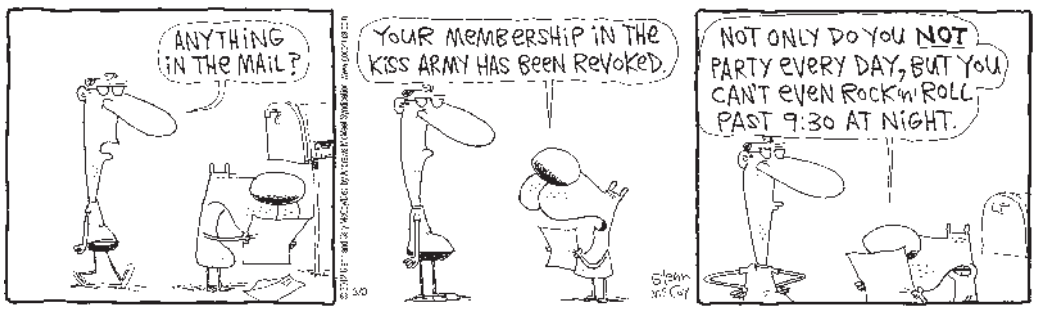
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THESE ARE ALL GOOD REVIEWS.
MOSTLY.
YOU HAVEN'T WRITTEN ANY BAD ONES?
HERE... READ THIS ONE.
"LIKE THE TASTE OF ROTTEN MELONS AND GUTTER LEAVES FELL IN LOVE AND MADE HORRIBLE LITTLE COFFEE BEAN BABIES."
WHOA. IT WAS THAT BAD?
THE POOR COFFEEMAKER HAD TO TAKE TWO PERSONAL DAYS AFTERWARDS!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


ANYTHING IN THE MAIL?
YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE KISS ARMY HAS BEEN REVOKED.
NOT ONLY DO YOU NOT PARTY EVERY DAY, BUT YOU CAN'T EVEN ROCK 'N' ROLL PAST 9:30 AT NIGHT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

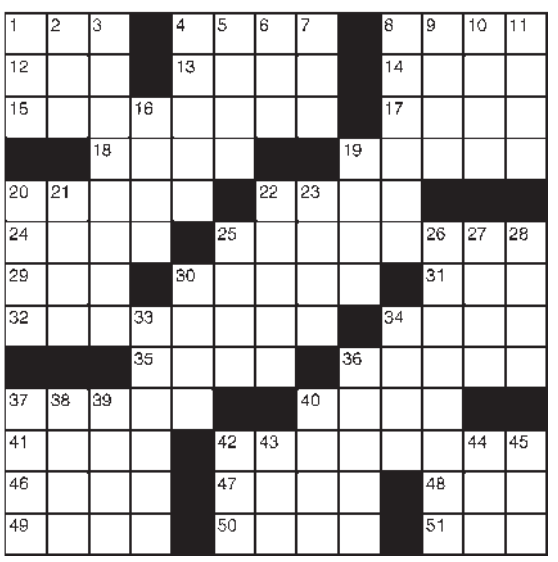
ACROSS
1 Director Lee
4 Clench
8 Urban blight
12 Singer Rawls
13 Rowboat needs
14 Hawaiian city
15 Fragrant flower
17 Gambling mecca
18 Whack
19 Sofa's kin
20 Plus
22 Detail
24 Scatters seeds
25 Winter road clearer
29 Somewhat (Suff.)
30 Sycophant
31 Lab eggs
32 Brazilian city
34 Pole, e.g.
35 Hot dog holder
36 Mare-to-be
37 Mob bosses
40 Niger neighbor
41 Actor Rickman
42 Tablet for shorthand
46 Titanic destroyer
47 With (Fr.)
48 Kimono sash
49 Collections
50 Like dried mud
51 Identify

DOWN
1 Gore and Green
2 At once
3 "Recognize my voice?"
4 Reached
5 Engrossed
6 Fury
7 Unpaid TV ad
8 Tempura selection
9 Actor Schreiber
10 Arm bone
11 Armstrong's destination
16 Rams fans?
19 Moist in the morn
21 Slugger Sammy
22 Totally
23 Commotion
25 Satan's purchase
26 Candy on a stick
27 Cameo shape
28 Undulating
30 New Mexico resort
33 Plug parts
34 Missile shelter
36 Ornate
37 Taxis
38 Downwind
39 Section
40 Timid
42 Pouch
43 FDR project
44 Actor Vigoda
45 Use a shovel

Solution time: 27 mins.

S	E	E	P		F	I	B		B	C	A	T
W	A	C	O		R	O	I		R	I	L	E
A	C	I	S		I	N	S		O	L	I	N
P	H	O	T	O	S		C	E	N	T		
			W	A	K	E	U	P	C	A	L	L
S	A	D	A	T		X	I		N	E	A	
P	U	R	R		B	U	T		S	K	I	T
E	R	E		F	O	R		P	A	S	S	E
C	A	N	N	O	N	B	A	L	L			
		C	O	B	B		M	Y	O	P	I	C
S	O	H	O		O	B	I		O	R	S	O
U	S	E	S		N	I	T		N	C	L	A
N	U	D	F		S	T	Y		S	P	A	T

Yesterday's answer 3-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Biel, 35; Julie Bowen, 47; Tone Loc, 51; Jackie Joyner-Kersee, 55.

Happy Birthday: Set high standards and unusual goals. Strive to please yourself, not those who may be trying to manipulate your life. Follow your heart where educational pursuits and friendships are concerned. Opportunity will come your way if you remain true to yourself and focus on what you love and do best. Get moving in a direction that promises to expand your interests. Your numbers are 3, 11, 17, 20, 28, 37, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: Refuse to let anyone bully you into something you don't want to do. Be nice, but make it clear you have better things to do. Make the choice to do something constructive with someone you enjoy being around. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: Get involved in activities or events that mean something to you. Taking part and expressing your thoughts will be met with both positive and negative responses. Aim high and don't be afraid to stick your neck out for others. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: Someone will dangle temptations in front of you. Whether it's a financial scam or emotional ploy, you are best to take a pass and do your own thing. Change begins within and making it happen will require effort. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: Step away from anyone who shows unpredictable characteristics. You can do just fine on your own and will prosper if you are precise and follow through. A change in your beliefs or lifestyle will bring you inner strength. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: Look over personal papers and take care of any medical concerns that crop up. Rely on past experiences to make good decisions and you'll avoid confusion and uncertainty. Don't let excessive behavior lead to regret or financial loss. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: Getting involved in something that you find emotionally or mentally stimulating will open up your mind to new beginnings and awesome personal changes that will help you stabilize your life. Savor the moment. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: Don't argue. Look for an unobtrusive way to implement the changes you want to see happen. Courtesy and understanding will take you far and also help you determine what's possible and what isn't. Don't waste time on no-win situations.✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: An older relative or friend will need your help. Make adjustments to your lifestyle if necessary. A complication will make you question your sense of purpose. Look inward and you'll find the strength, courage and answers you are searching for. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: Watch someone in the background making quiet but progressive moves that could disrupt your position or your reputation. Engage in physical challenges that require endurance and courage. Your efforts will pay off. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: Get together with old friends or attend a reunion that gives you the opportunity to follow through on situations you left unfinished. You'll learn from past mistakes and benefit from doing things right this time around. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: Research will help you avoid making a mistake. Don't rely on anyone but yourself when it comes to investments, medical or legal matters. Put your strategy in place and execute your plans on your own behalf. Don't give in to emotional manipulation. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: Your contribution to a cause that concerns you will give your reputation a boost. You'll attract plenty of new associates. Take time to figure out who is worth your while and who isn't. Surround yourself with doers, not users. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are genuine, loyal and steadfast. You are observant and distinctive.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4		2		3	
5		9		3	8			
							4	
2	1							7
	3			2			1	
7							8	4
	5							
			1	5		9		8
	2		3		6			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	4	3	7	5	8	1	6	2
6	5	2	9	1	4	8	7	3
7	8	1	3	2	6	9	5	4
8	2	6	5	4	3	7	9	1
1	7	4	8	6	9	3	2	5
3	9	5	2	7	1	4	8	6
5	3	7	1	9	2	6	4	8
4	1	9	6	8	5	2	3	7
2	6	8	4	3	7	5	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CITRON Solution: 7 letters

A	L	P	O	D	N	F	D	E	C	I	D	M	T	E
N	N	A	E	D	E	E	C	I	R	N	E	N	T	T
T	O	T	C	R	E	I	E	L	I	L	A	N	I	I
I	E	I	I	I	E	B	D	R	O	R	A	Y	U	N
B	N	M	T	O	P	N	L	N	G	M	G	E	R	E
I	I	O	U	C	X	O	N	A	A	N	E	L	F	M
O	R	S	M	F	E	I	R	I	A	C	N	K	L	E
T	A	W	E	E	R	F	D	T	A	A	U	C	O	Y
I	D	E	P	E	L	E	N	A	V	L	Ⓢ	I	R	E
C	N	E	B	O	D	S	P	O	N	E	Ⓞ	P	E	L
I	A	T	W	A	M	S	Z	O	C	T	Ⓤ	E	N	L
T	M	E	C	A	L	E	V	O	E	I	Ⓡ	E	T	O
R	R	C	L	I	S	A	L	C	O	H	O	L	I	W
U	U	L	M	T	T	D	D	O	D	W	W	I	N	E
S	O	E	R	E	M	E	D	Y	A	C	I	D	E	M

©2011 Andrews McMeel www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 3/3

Albedo, Alcohol, Antibiotic, Antioxidant, Balady, Candied, Citrus, Cold, Confection, Diamante, Diced, Florentine, Flower, Fragrant, Fruit, Genus, Green, Lemon, Lime, Mandarin, Medica, Melon, Ovate, Peel, Perennial, Perfume, Pickle, Pomelo, Remedy, Rice, Rind, Seeds, Small, Sour, Succade, Sweet, Tangy, Tropical, White, Wine, Yellow, Yemenite, Zest

Yesterday's Answer: Fees

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 120 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Commercial Property Leasing Manager: Needed to manage and administer the leasing, maintenance, and improvement of commercial properties in Saipan. Require a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Real Estate Management, or Law and two years of experience. Send resumes to Mr. Kiyoshi Koizumi, U.S. Leakless, Inc. PMB 460 P.O. Box 10000, Saipan MP 96950.

WHATZIT Solution:
Back to square one

AM Machine Shop & Car Airconditioning

(3) Machinist - must have 3 years experience. Knowledgeable in Modifying & Fabrication any parts Metallic & Non Metallic

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ACCOUNTANT
Must be college graduate with degree in Accounting or Business Administration and has minimum of 5 to 8 years experience in communication business.

Computer literate, expertise in Microsoft office applications and accounting softwares. Knowledge in preparation of financial reports, tax, budget, forecast, billings. Proficient in verbal and written communication.

Interested applicants can send resume to Choice Radio, Inc. P.O. Box 501750 Saipan, MP 96950.

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- Knowledge of Administrative & Clerical procedures & systems, Intuit Quickbooks Software.
- Knowledge of circuit boards, processors, chips, electronic equipment & computer hardware & software, including applications & programming.
- Knowledge of installation & configuration of computer hardware and its operating system.

Apply in person and bring resume. No phone call please.
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Embroiderer. Must be able to do embroidery. Must be able to sew/embroider garments, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Assemble garment parts and join parts with basting stitches, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Program machine to be able to embroider a specific design. Knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in production of precision. Must have a 1-2 years experience in embroidery. Knowledgeable of principles and methods of Embroidery. Multi-tasking. Can work on longer hours. Good eyesight.

Qualified US Citizen applicants may send resume/bio-data at
hr.islandapparel@gmail.com
No phone calls please.
Island Apparel
P.O. Box 502912, Saipan MP 96950

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Tamuning, GU 9691303507
Tel: (670) 483-9474 • Email: info@guam.wish.org
www.guam.wish.org
Saipan Tribune

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR
Must be College Graduate with a 4-year degree & with at least 2-year experience of property management, pawnshop and real estate. Knowledgeable in real estate and drilling operations, gold acid testing and QuickBooks preferred.

BUSINESS SUPPORT SPECIALIST
College Graduate with a 4-year degree or with at least two year experience in Western Union, Real Estate, Pawnshop and Drilling business. Has excellent customer service and organizational skills and skilled in dealing with financial and numeric data.

WELL DRILLER
Minimum of 8 years experience of monitoring water well drilling & boring holes. Must have excellent knowledge & skill in well servicing & well drilling using different methods & other necessary drilling equipment, tools & machines. OSHA & HAZWOPER Certification are required.

DRILLER HELPER
Minimum of 5 years experience of assisting in water well drilling & boring holes. Must have excellent knowledge & skills in well servicing & well drilling using different methods & other necessary drilling equipment, tools & machines. OSHA & HAZWOPER certification are required.

CONSTRUCTION LABORER
Minimum of 5 years experience of performing tasks involving physical labor in well construction & real estate development projects, specializing in water well drilling projects & commercial and residential property maintenance service. OSHA & HAZWOPER certification are required.

Alexander Incorporated
Alexander Building, Beach Road,
San Jose, Saipan MP 96950
Alexander For inquiries, please call 234-5117.

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- ASSISTANT CHEF
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- SERVERS
- FRONT DESK CLERK
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- Bachelor's degree in accounting or its equivalent.
- Minimum of three (3) years experience.
- Strong computer proficiency in Microsoft Excel & Word (knowledge in Quickbooks or similar accounting software is a plus).
- Strong communication skills.

Candidates must also be willing to work flexible hours under minimum supervision.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Required Qualifications:

- U.S. accredited Bachelor's Degree in: Medical Technology, Biomedical Engineering, Chemistry, Biochemistry or related science or medical field.
- Minimum of 2 years experience in the field of Sales of pharmaceuticals, dialysis supplies and equipment, medical supplies and equipment, laboratory reagents and equipment.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills and a good command of the English language. Non-native speakers may be requested to present satisfactory TOEFL or IELTS scores.
  Experienced in maintaining and monitoring inventories for medical supplies and equipment, dialysis supplies and equipment, and pharmaceuticals.
- Experienced in handling medical equipment and supplies, dialysis equipment and supplies, laboratory reagents and equipment.
- Capable of preparing and presenting weekly sales reports, monthly inventory reports, and market analysis reports using Quickbooks 2013 or other similar accounting software.
- Must be available to work during nights, weekends, and holidays.
- Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license

Interested applicants may email a copy of their resume and police clearance to ruth.feril@medpharmusa.net or fax to 670-235-5418.

Customers First
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is now accepting applications for experienced:

IT ADMINISTRATOR

Must be able to troubleshoot business data processing problems to implement and improve computer systems. Good network experience. Analyze user requirements, procedures, and problems to automate or improve existing systems and review computer system capabilities, workflow, and scheduling limitations. Have knowledge of inventory system control. Knowledge of Audio/Video principles, electronic equipment, local and wide area networking, computer hardware and software. Visual FoxPro and VB.Net is a plus. Must have at least a degree in computer science or equivalent plus directly related work experience. Triple J offers competitive salary with benefits.

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CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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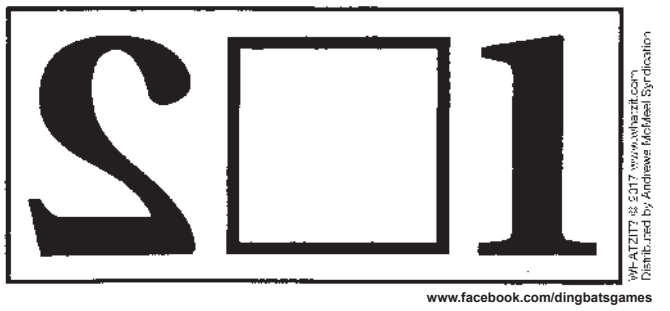
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform all businesses, contractors and the general public that the following individuals are no longer connected nor employed by RPCF Inc. General Construction Company effective March 20, 2017.

1. Abdullah, MD Tushar
2. Ahmed, Sagor
3. Hasan, MD Mahamudul
4. Jony, MD Bodlur Rahman
5. Rahman, Masuduor
6. Rahman, MD Mahbubur

Any transaction or otherwise is not authorized or approved by our company.

RPCF Inc.
General Contractor

WESTERN SALES TRADING COMPANY
has an opening for:

One (1) Product Demonstrator

Minimum Requirements: High school diploma (may be foreign equivalent) and one (1) year experience as a product demonstrator and/or merchandiser.
Duties: Conduct product demo and explain products to customers. Set up props, demo materials and supplies and arrange displays or demonstration areas for prospective customers. Transport, assemble, and disassemble materials used in presentations. Prepare or alter presentation contents to target specific audiences. Prepare products and give samples to customers to try/test. Provide product information and suggest specific product purchases to meet customers' needs. Sell products being promoted and keep records of sales. Re-stock store shelves to replenish products sold following product merchandising procedures. Contact salesmen to replenish merchandise and assist in selling and delivery of merchandise. Perform other related duties.

If interested, send resume to Western Sales Trading Company by email to bello.lumintegar@yahoo.com or by fax at 670-322-9408. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within three days of hire.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

SUCCESS INTERNATIONAL CORP.
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(3) Heavy Equipment Operator
Can expertly operate:
- **Boom Truck**
- **Low Boy**
- **Excavator**

(1) Heavy Equipment Mechanic
Salary Negotiable

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Location: Lower Base, Saipan

BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(01) KHMER TRANSLATOR (Full-time)

Job Purpose:
Directly assists the company with translation coordination activities and engagement with internal and external resources to support projects in the Khmer PDR.

Duties:
- Translate various documents to and from Khmero to English for use in project management and litigation.
- Identify useful information in the documents and communicate that information to internal management.
- Sort mail.
- Type memos and envelopes.
- Prepare documents and packages for mail or shipping related to Lao projects.
- Scan, rename, and file Khmer documents on server.
- Performs other clerical and administrative duties, as needed

Skills/Qualifications:
- Must have fluency in Khmer and English.
- Previous translation experience is preferred.
- Excellent verbal/written communication skills.
- Great attention to detail.
- Competency with Microsoft Office required

No phone calls please. Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd, Garapan, or email to tania.mesa@bccnmi.com. Deadline to submit application will be Friday, March 3, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

CORAL OCEAN GOLF RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
URGENT HIRING!!!

(1) Accountant — Salary : $7.25 to $8.75
Bachelor Degree in Accounting or equivalent. Have at least 2 to 4 years accounting work experience in hotel/golf course industry or equivalent. Have knowledge of economic and accounting principles and practices, A/P, A/R, G/L, FS, bank analysis and reporting of financial data. Excellent in mathematical and communication skills. Ability to maintain highly confidential nature of accounting works and possess professionalism with good manners and right conduct. Knowledge in different accounting software application. Must know how to operate Peachtree Program and must be computer literate. Must be able to work under pressure and meet deadlines. Company may require a written accounting examination.

(1) Automotive Mechanic — Salary : $7.00 to $8.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least one or two years of working experienced in full range skilled repair and maintenance on automobiles, small engines such as golf course equipment, heavy equipment, and other mechanical and electrical equipment. Has the ability to be extent flexibility that includes bending, twisting, and lifting.

(5) Cooks — Salary : $7.00 to $8.00
Six months to a year of work related experienced. Culinary Degree preferred but not required. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well-groomed at all times. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time. Full understanding of licensing responsibilities and environmental health standards. And a highly qualified in preparing variety of food and knowledgeable in processing and food production like salad, appetizers, dessert and main entrees. Must be able to obtain a Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(10) Housekeepers — Salary Range : $6.55 to $7.15
High School Diploma or equivalent. Few months to one year related work experienced. Knowledge of principles and process for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of arrival. Must be able to understand and follow instructions and out task in order and willing to work under pressure with the specified number of rooms or duties assigned in everyday. Has the ability to be extent flexibility that includes bending, twisting and lifting. Experienced in Hotel Industry for the position is a plus. Computer literacy is preferred but not required. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time and must possess a friendly and good manners.

(2) Lifeguard — Salary: $6.55 to $8.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least from a few month to a year of related work experienced. First Aide and CPR Certified, swimmer or a certified lifeguard or must be able to acquire Lifeguard Certification. He/She must be familiar with the safe handling of pool chemicals and the process to clean and sanitize the area. Posses a friendly, good moral character and good communications skills. Fit to work under the sun. Company may require swimming test.

Suwaso Corporation dba Coral Ocean Golf Resort would like to invite all qualified US workers to send/submit their resume/application form to Marge.Binuya@eland.co.kr. Deadline of submission is on March 10, 2016 at 1:00 PM. Provide at least two recommendation letter and proof of certification for the position, if needed. All interested applicant must be willing to work in a flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekend and holidays. Application form is also available in the hotel lobby and HR Office. Incomplete application may not be considered for assessment. Fill up the form completely prior submission. No phone calls please.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
ONE (1) ACCOUNTANT

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

Examine financial statements to ensure that they are accurate and comply with laws and regulations; Compute taxes owed, prepare tax returns, and ensure that taxes are paid properly and on time; Develop, implement, modify and document recordkeeping and accounting systems, making use of specific computer technology; Organize and maintain financial records; Assess financial operations and make best-practices recommendations to management; Suggest ways to reduce costs, enhance revenues, and improve profits; Develop, maintain and analyze budgets, preparing periodic reports that compare budgeted costs to actual costs.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS
- Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy
- Five (5) years experience in Finance or Accounting field.
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant (U.S. or Foreign certifications acceptable)
- Must have knowledge in Synchronics CounterPoint, Peachtree Complete Accounting and Microsoft Office programs.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Thomas T. Chong
Transamerica (Saipan) Corporation
P.O. Box 501579
Saipan, MP 96950

By Facsimile: (670) 234-8080; or by e-mail:
humanresource.tc@gmail.com

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FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following vacant position

Laundry Attendant (1)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. 6 months to 1 year work experience as a laundry worker is preferred. Must be able to lift and push up to 30 pounds without any assistance. Must be able to stand on feet for long period of time. Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends, nights and holidays.

Housekeeping Cleaner (9)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. Minimum of 6 months work experience in a hotel Is preferred. Able to speak and write English. Ability to speak basic foreign language is a plus . Good customer service skills are essential. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights. Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects.

Tailor / Seamstress (1)
Qualifications: Measures, makes or alters uniforms for new employees. Repairs and maintain uniforms for all hotel employees. Organize and take inventory for all fabric materials, perform other duties as may be assigned by immediate superior. Must have 2 years tailoring experience. Is able to work well under pressure in a fast pace environment. Must be able to work flexible schedule including holidays.

Executive Chef (1)
Qualifications: Responsible for all food purchase specifications and recipes including that used for restaurants, banquet functions and other outlets. Develop and monitor food and labor budget for the department. Interview, select, train, supervise, counsel and discipline all employees in the department. Maintain highest professional food quality and sanitation standards. 2 years previous experience as executive chef in a high volume hotel or large restaurant. Strong interpersonal , communication and organizational skills are essential.

Wait Staff (1) – China Market
Duties/Responsiblities: Take orders and serve food and beverage to patrons at tables in dining establishment. Check with customers to ensure that they are enjoying their meals and take action to correct any problems. Memorize orders to enter orders into computers for transmittal to kitchen staff.
Requirements: High school graduate, GED or equivalent required. Must have ability to calculate figures, volumes and mathematical conversions. Ability to respond to common inquiries and complaints from customers. Ability to write and speak clearly and effectively in English and Chinese is required. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Application forms may be obtained and submitted to our Security Office located on the South Wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa. Deadline for submission of applications to be considered is March 3, 2017.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER. PLEASE CALL 235-NEWS

Workforce Solutions, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Management Accountant (2)
College degree with accounting or financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in analyzing, interpreting and providing sound financial information. Must be adept in monthly financial statement preparation and consolidation, cash flow forecasting, budgeting, and providing financial projections. Must have excellent communication, organizational and self-management skills. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft Excel, Power Point and Project. CPA not required.

Building Cleaner (4)
High School Diploma or equivalent. Must have at least 3 years working experience. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Important qualities: detailed oriented, responsible. Interpersonal skills. Must get along well with people they provide services for and must be polite and friendly. Physical stamina. Must be able to spend many hours on their feet scrubbing, bending, stooping, and stretching and must be able to lift or move up to 50 pounds. Must be able to work flexible hours and days

Accountant (5)
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Business Development Manager (1)
Graduate of a 4-year degree course with an Accounting or Financial Management major and at least 5 years of progressive financial and business management experience. Minimum of 3 years general management experience preferably in a financing or banking institution. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software and Microsoft software. Should possess a solid track record of accomplishing business objectives.

Accounting Manager (1)
College degree with financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software.

Accounting Supervisor (1)
A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a focus in accounting and/or finance. 2-3 years of progressive responsibility supervising a minimum of 3 associates. CPA/CPA candidate a plus. Audit experience also preferred. Must have knowledge with the use of SAP R3 FICO System and SAP Fixed Asset Module. Microsoft Office proficiency with advanced knowledge of Excel is a must.

Administrative Assistant (2)
Associate's Degree with 2 years experience of administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records. Must be proficient in typing and good at written and oral communication. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service and interpersonal skills at work. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights. Proficient in MS Office including Word, Excel and Outlook.

Messenger (2)
High school graduate. Must be able to keep track of multiple documents and itemize. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Good oral and written communication skills and good driving skills are required. Must provide and maintain own vehicle for work and have a valid driver's license. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

Administrative Assistant for Sports Facilities (4)
High school diploma or GED Certificate plus experience working in sports organization or sports facilities. Must be computer literate: Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook. Applicant must have good written and oral communication skills. Can work flexible hours and available on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Air conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic (2)
Associate's Degree or Vocational School graduate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, servicing, and repairing air conditioning and refrigerating systems in residences and commercial establishments. Must have his/her own reliable transportation and must be able to work flexible hours.

HR & Administrative Assistant (1)
Associate's Degree. Must have knowledge of principles and procedures for personnel recruitment, selection, benefits and personnel information systems. Ability to work in confidential related matters, self-directed and be able to multi-task in a fast paced environment. With a minimum of 2 years work experience in an administrative role and accounting experience. Proficient in MS Office including Word, Excel and Outlook.

Vice President (1)
Graduate of 4-year degree course with a minimum of 10 years of professional progressive management experience and at least 5 years of general management experience in property management or hotel management, and tourism & cargo business experience for Korean Market. Proficient in English & Korean (reading, writing, speaking). Knowledge of lease negotiations plus financial and quality management is required. Must have a solid track record in accomplishing business objectives.

Electrician (1)
High school diploma or GED certificate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, maintaining, and/or repairing electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Must have knowledge of electrical codes, intercom and electrical control systems. Must be able to work flexible hours.

General Maintenance Worker (11)
High school diploma or equivalent with at least 3 years experience especially in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours.

Network Administration Manager (1)
Associate's degree in any computer science, information engineering or other computer technology related areas. Must have at least 5 years of sound experience in local and wide area networks management and administration including system configuration, setup, troubleshooting, planning, designing, implementation, and user support. Must have knowledge in MS Exchange Email Server.

Engineering Manager (1)
Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering with at least 5 years of progressive management experience. Ability to successfully develop, implement and manage projects including the ability to provide effective leadership is a must. Adeptness in cost estimation and knowledge of quality control and federal regulations in environmental and occupational safety hazards is required. The duties of this job require constant outside travel and exposure to outside weather conditions. Must be able to provide his/her own transportation and must have a valid driver's license.

Sales Officer (1)
Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Must be able to prepare management and sales reports and is proficient in various MS office software operations. Can work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Legal Secretary (2)
Associates degree and at least 2 years work related experience in a legal office. Proficient in case and document management software, Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Power Point and Outlook. Familiar in preparation and filing of pleadings and legal documents.

Corporate Paralegal Officer (1)
Bachelor's degree in paralegal studies or in any related field. Minimum of 3 years experience providing sound legal research, reliable litigation support and preparation of legal documents, pleadings and contracts. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Familiarity with Lexis - Nexis and Pacer - ECF is required.

IT Manager (1)
College degree with a major in computer science, computer technology or information engineering or other related areas is required. At least 5 years of progressive management experience and 8 years of sound and all-around IT technical experience is required. Must have well-developed written/oral and management skills and with a strong background in all IT hardware, software and communication business requirements.

Computer Technician (1)
Associate's degree in any computer science, information technology or other related areas. Must have at least 3 years of sound experience in electronics and communication systems with emphasis on the repair of computer equipment and installation of telephone cables/systems. Must be knowledgeable in different software applications and in hardware troubleshooting. Must be able to work flexible hours.

Graphic Designer (1)
Associate's degree in Fine Arts, Graphic Design or other related areas. Minimum of 3 years work experience in creating graphics to meet specific commercial or promotional needs. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, depending on demand.

Programmer Analyst (1)
Associate's degree in computer science or computer programming and at least 3 years of work-related experience in a professional Microsoft Windows environment. Strong practical knowledge in relational databases management particularly in midrange RDMS environment such as SQL server. Knowledge in windows-based and web-based programming is a must.

Interested applicants may send their resumes to workforcesolutions.recruitment@gmail.com.
To be considered, applications or resumes must
be submitted not later than 5:00 pm, Friday, March 10, 2017.

Workforce Solutions, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Workforce Solutions, Inc. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Logistics Manager
Graduate of 4-year degree course and with at least 6 years management experience in the logistics business with emphasis on airfreight, ocean freight forwarding, warehousing and fuel hauling operations. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, Environmental and Occupational Safety Hazards is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Accounting Manager
Graduate of 4-year degree course in accounting with at least 5 years experience in financial management: directing the preparation of financial reports; implementing cash management; and directing investment activities for a logistics supply chain business operations. Must have excellent written communication and analysis skills for financial data reporting. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics software are a must. Expertise with MS Excel, Word and Power Point is required. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Sales & Marketing Manager
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Sales or Marketing or any Business course and at least 3 years of managerial work experience are required as well as an extensive knowledge and experience in supply chain and freight brokerage. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Proficiency in freight forwarding, shipping and household goods operations are a must. Must be familiar with freight forwarding software.

Accountant
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 3 years work experience in financial management for a logistics/supply chain business or agency operations. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics systems. Must have expertise with MS Excel, Word and Power Point. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Storage and Distribution Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years of distribution and warehousing supervisory experience. Knowledge of household goods handling and airfreight and oceanfreight operations is required. Proficiency in Warehouse management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Shipping Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of shipping, receiving and warehousing supervisory experience is required. Proficiency in shipping operations, shipping documentation & cargo management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, 49 CFR & IMDG Code is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines. Knowledge of bill of ladings, scheduling and planning inbound and outbound shipments is a must.

Transportation Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of logistics and trucking operations supervisory experience is required. Must be knowledgeable in transportation and safety regulations and proficient in various logistic software. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Freight Forwarding Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years experience in freight forwarding operations and 1-year experience in transportation security and communication related activities. Knowledge of TSA security regulations and proficiency in TSA Known Shipper Management System are a must. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation and IATA related trainings. Proficiency in airfreight documentation, freight forwarding software, FEDEX systems and operations are a must. Must be familiar with airline operations and regulations.

Cargo and Freight Agent (5)
Associate's Degree with a minimum of 2 years experience in a logistics, freight brokerage or warehouse services business. Must know how to operate a forklift with certification. Must be able to do strenuous work with some lifting and carrying of small items on the job. Licensed to drive 4x6 wheel closed vans and must have obtained training or certification in handling hazardous materials, Occupational Safety, Hazardous Waste Operation and IAC CCSF authorized screener. Must be proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs and available to work on evenings and weekend hours.

Specialized Truck Driver (6)
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Must have at least 3 years experience in hauling petroleum products with the corresponding SMITHS & STOPS training certification, carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Heavy Equipment Truck Driver (3)
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Shipping and Receiving Clerk (4)
Associate's Degree and at least 2 years work related experience. Must be proficient in MS Office programs as well as other planning and logistics software. Knowledge of supply chain, shipping operations and procedures, document preparation and recordkeeping is required. Should possess good interpersonal and verbal communication skills.

Accounting Clerk
High School graduate, GED, Associates degree or equivalent with at least 2-3 years bookkeeping or clerical accounting work experience in freight forwarding operation, sales or service related work. Associate Degree in Accounting, Auditing, Business Management or Finance an advantage. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Word Processor and Spreadsheet; and proficient with Accounting software such as SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) system, ERP system, and HR2 system).

Truck Mechanic
Vocational or High School Graduate. Must be able to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul trucks, or maintain and repair any type of engines. Minimum of two (2) year work experience is required on these areas: lubrication, repairs and servicing, use of machine tools, welding and flame cutting, engine elements, gears, brakes, transmission, exhausts, etc. Proficiency in critical devices for fuel tank trucks is a must.

Automotive Body Repairer
Formal Auto Body Training in a Vocational School is required as well as a minimum of one-year experience in repairing and refinishing automotive vehicle bodies' vehicle frames. Proficiency in automotive body painting is required.

Janitor
Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience.
Interested applicants may send their resumes to workforcesolutions.recruitment@gmail.com.
To be considered, applications or resumes must
be submitted not later than 5:00 pm, Friday, March 10, 2017.

Workforce Solutions, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Thomas, Celtics overcome Cavs, James' triple-double

BOSTON (AP)—Isaiah Thomas scored 31 points, including the go-ahead free throws, as the Boston Celtics outlasted LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers 103-99 on Wednesday night.

Boston's win overshadowed the seventh triple-double of the season for James, who finished with 28 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists. Kyrie Irving added 28 points for the Cavaliers, who lost for the first time when leading at any point in the fourth quarter on the road.

The game marked the third meeting this season between the top two teams in the Eastern Conference, and the first win by the Celtics.

Jae Crowder had 17 points and 10 rebounds for Boston, which led by three entering the fourth before there were six ties and 10 lead changes in the final 12 minutes.

Deron Williams, signed by Cleveland earlier this week, scored four points in 24 minutes in his Cavaliers debut.

Wizards 105, Raptors 96

In Toronto, Bojan Bogdanovic had 27 points off the bench and Bradley Beal added 23 as Washington ended an eight-game losing streak against Toronto.

John Wall had 12 points and 13 assists for his 39th double-double of the season as the third-place Wizards took the first of a home-and-home series against Toronto, moving a game up on fourth-place Toronto in the standings.

DeMar DeRozan had 24 points and Serge Ibaka added 22 more for the Raptors, who were again without All-Star Kyle Lowry following the guard's wrist surgery that will keep him out the remainder of the regular season.

Spurs 100, Pacers 99

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard had 31 points and 10 rebounds, and San Antonio returned from an eight-game road trip to beat Indiana.

Leonard hit a turnaround, fade-away jumper from 16 feet against Paul George with 2.4 seconds left to win it. Indiana's Monta Ellis missed a pair of free throws with nine seconds remaining and George missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

George finished with 22 points and C.J. Miles added 19 for the Pacers.

San Antonio extended its winning streak to five games, including four straight to close its annual rodeo road trip in February.

Pau Gasol and David Lee had 18 points each off the bench for the Spurs, who played without injured point guard Tony Parker (bruised quadriceps).

The matchup of All-Star forwards was a stalemate until the final five minutes. Leonard scored San Antonio's final nine points during that stretch, including the game-winning shot, while George was limited to a pair of free throws.

Rockets 122, Clippers 103

In Los Angeles, James Harden scored 26 points and Houston shot 20 of 52 on 3-pointers in a victory over Los Angeles.

Ryan Anderson added 23 points, including a team-high six 3s, as the Rockets won for the seventh time in nine games and extended their NBA record to nine games with 20 or more 3-pointers this season.

Nene had 16 points for Houston, which outrebounded the Clippers 62-35. In four games since the All-Star break, the Rockets, who lead the NBA in 3-pointers made and attempted, have hit 72 on 206 attempts, an average of 18 of 52 from beyond the arc.

Chris Paul had 16 points and 10 assists to lead the Clippers, who lost for the third time in four games. Blake Griffin scored 17.

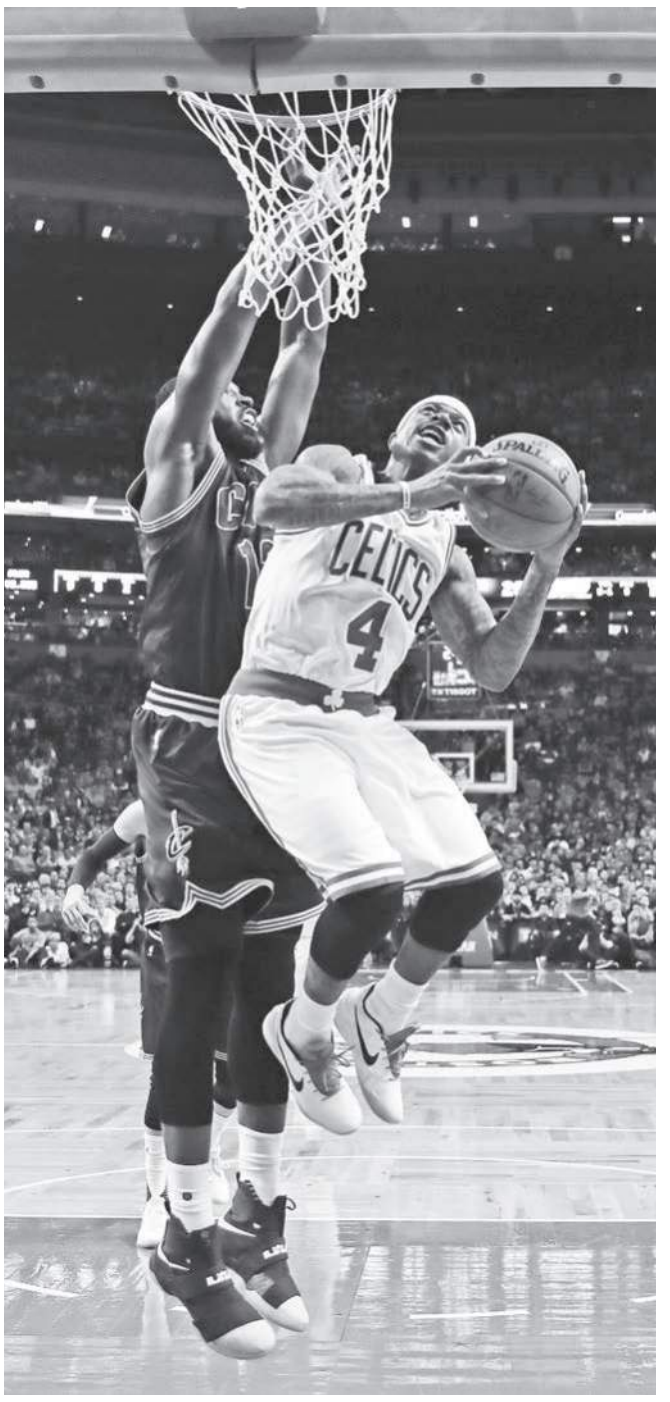
Nets 109, Kings 100

In Sacramento, California, Brook Lopez had 24 points and eight rebounds, and Brooklyn never trailed in snapping a 16-game losing streak by defeating Sacramento.

The Nets' previous win was Jan. 20 at New Orleans. They had dropped 27 of 28 games since beating Charlotte on Dec. 26. The franchise record for consecutive losses is 18 by the 2009-10 team that went 12-70, another low mark in club history.

Jeremy Lin scored 17 points, Isaiah Whitehead had 14 and Caris LeVert finished with 13 for the NBA-worst Nets (10-49). Brooklyn made 11 3-pointers and shot 46 percent.

Sacramento rookie Buddy Hield had 16 points. The Kings have lost three straight and are 1-3 since trading DeMarcus Cousins to the Pelicans.



AP

Boston Celtics guard Isaiah Thomas (4) drives to the basket during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Cleveland Cavaliers in Boston, Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

Hawks 100, Mavericks 95

In Atlanta, Paul Millsap scored with 30.5 seconds remaining to help Atlanta hold off Dallas.

After Millsap's basket put the Hawks ahead 96-95, Harrison Barnes missed a chance to put the Mavericks back in front. His jumper was off the mark with Kent Bazemore in his face. Ersan Ilyasova was fouled going for the rebound and made both free throws with 11.1 seconds left.

Dallas still had a chance to force overtime, but Seth Curry slipped on the inbounds pass and Bazemore scooped up the loose ball, taking off the other way for a dunk that clinched the victory.

Millsap had 18 points and just missed a triple-double, dishing out 10 assists to go with eight rebounds. Ilyasova also finished with 18 points.

Barnes led the Mavericks with 25 points.

Heat 125, 76ers 98

In Miami, Tyler Johnson scored 24 points off the bench, and Miami never trailed in a win over Philadelphia.

Wayne Ellington made six 3-pointers for 18 points for Miami, which has won 10 of its past 11 at home. Hassan Whiteside, Dion Waiters and Goran Dragic all scored 15 for the Heat, and Whiteside also grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds.

Robert Covington scored 19 for the 76ers, who learned earlier Wednesday that center Joel Embiid will miss the remainder of the season with a left knee injury.

Pelicans 109, Pistons 86

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis had 33 points and 14 rebounds, and New Orleans snapped a three-game skid with a victory over Detroit.

Pistons 6-foot-11 center Andre Drummond was ejected for swatting at the back of 6-1 Pelicans guard Tim Frazier's head after Frazier had ripped away a rebound late in the third quarter. Drummond had 13 points and 17 rebounds to that point, but also missed nine of 10 free throws.

Jrue Holiday had 22 points for the Pelicans, who were without newly acquired All-Star DeMarcus Cousins because of Cousins' one-game suspension that was triggered when he received his 18th technical foul of this season on Sunday night.

Jon Leuer scored 22 points and Tobias Harris added 15 points for Detroit.

Nuggets 110, Bucks 98

In Milwaukee, Nikola Jokic had his second triple-double in two nights to lead Denver over Milwaukee.

Jokic finished with 13 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists for his fourth career triple-double—all in his last 13 games.

Danilo Gallinari scored 22 points for Denver, which built a 31-point lead despite playing without point guard Jameer Nelson (illness) for the first time this season.

The Nuggets, coming off a victory Tuesday at Chicago, have won back-to-back road games for the first time this season. They've also won consecutive games for the first time since taking three straight Jan. 24-28.

Khris Middleton had a season-high 21 points to go with five rebounds and five assists for the Bucks.

Knicks 101, Magic 90

In Orlando, Florida, Kristaps Porzingis had 20 points and nine rebounds, and Derrick Rose scored 19 to help New York cruise past Orlando.

Facing a Magic team adjusting to playing with a smaller lineup, the Knicks used their superior size to their advantage. Porzingis, who missed the previous two games with a sprained right ankle, presented matchup problems for Orlando all night.

Carmelo Anthony had 17 points and Justin Holiday added 14 off the bench for the Knicks.

Evan Fournier led Orlando with 22 points.

Timberwolves 107, Jazz 80

In Salt Lake City, Karl-Anthony Towns had 21 points and 15 rebounds to lead Minnesota over Utah.

Andrew Wiggins scored 20 points and Shabazz Muhammad added 18 for the Timberwolves, who won for the fourth time in five games. Utah was the fourth opponent in the last seven games that Minnesota held under 90 points.

Dante Exum scored 15 points and Gordon Hayward added 13 to lead the Jazz, while Derrick Favors had 10 points and 12 rebounds. The loss snapped a five-game winning streak in the series for Utah, which has lost two straight overall.

Warriors: Durant out indefinitely with left knee injury

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Kevin Durant is down for the immediate future with a knee injury, and that's a huge blow on both ends of the floor for the playoff-bound, championship-chasing Golden State Warriors.

Stephen Curry and Co. are going to have to carry on without KD perhaps for the remainder of the regular season—and maybe longer.

Durant will be out indefinitely after he sprained the medial collateral ligament in his left knee and bruised a bone in his leg during Tuesday night's loss at Washington, leaving the Warriors without their shot-blocking big man who also does it all on offense.

"Heal up my Man...we will hold it down til your back on the court with us. Prayers up!" Curry, the two-time reigning MVP, posted Wednesday on Twitter.

The NBA's top team will push toward the playoffs without its leading scorer and rebounder. For the month of March, at least.

The Warriors said Wednesday that their medical staff hasn't ruled out a Durant return before the end of the regular season, though nobody is predicting at this stage.

"At this time it's just speculation to guess when that is," general manager Bob Myers said in a conference call. "He'll heal as his body heals. And when he's healed and our doctors clear him and we feel like it's safe, he'll play. I want to know as much as you guys but at this point the plan is just to reevaluate him and see where he's at in four weeks."

The All-Star forward hyperextended his knee early in the Warriors' 112-108 loss to the Wizards and later underwent an MRI exam, which revealed a Grade 2—or moderate—sprain in the knee as well as a bruised tibia.

Durant is scheduled to be reevaluated in four weeks, so if he is fully healthy then, that would leave about two weeks remaining in the regular season. He was scheduled to return to the Bay Area on Wednesday and immediately begin rehabilitation. The Warriors headed for Chicago to continue a grueling stretch of eight games in 13 days with a cross-country trip. They return to Oakland for one game then a back-to-back at Minnesota and San Antonio on March 10-11.

On a Wizards possession under their basket less than a minute into the game, Washington center Marcin Gortat pushed Warriors center Zaza Pachulia, who fell into Durant's left leg. While Myers isn't on the trip and only saw the play on TV, he said the team's video staff might have other angles he can see—though in speaking to Durant there wasn't immediate concern about the play being intentional.

"These things happen in sports," Myers said. "Nobody's raised that question on our side. I don't know if it's being raised outside of us. I spoke to Kevin a couple times. Other than just being disappointed that he's injured, nobody's mentioned anything like that."

NFL prospects have been prepping for this big week

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The 330 players arriving at the league's annual combine have been preparing for this week's "Underwear Olympics" like a prize fighter gets ready for his big night, pumping iron and cutting carbs.

They've been following strict programs designed to help them get stronger, run faster and jump higher in anticipation of getting poked and prodded, measured and treasured.

"The hardest thing for these kids to really understand when they get to the combine and the pro day is they get one shot at all these drills," said Loren Landow, who trained Stanford star Christian McCaffrey among more than two dozen NFL hopefuls at Landow Performance in suburban Denver over the last two months.

"Whereas your strength coach in college used to let you do it over and over until you got your best time, now that's not the case when you're being evaluated in a time crunch," Landow said. "They're going to give you one opportunity and it's all about how well you perform at that moment with high levels of stress and some fatigue on you."

That's why they've been training with such single-minded focus since their bowl games.

"It's a lot of just trying to improve all the funky drills that they have you doing at the combine that you know aren't necessarily things that we practice as a football player on a daily basis," said Wyoming offensive lineman Chase Roullier, who trained with Landow.

That's been the formula ever since Mike Mamula absolutely killed it at the 1995 combine and rocketed into the first round, where the Philadelphia Eagles traded the 12th overall pick and two second-round selections to Tampa Bay so they could move up five spots and get the Boston College defensive end at No. 7.

Mamula was among the first players to train specifically for the tests he'd face at the combine: the 40-yard dash, the three-cone drill that measures agility and the 225-pound bench press.

Now everybody targets this week in Indy like Mamula did all those years ago.

Today's prospects train six days a week for eight weeks or more all so they can impress NFL executives who will test their speed, strength, skills and brain power while also checking out their medical background and any off-field history for any red flags.

"I feel like it's definitely getting us ready for the combine as far as all the guys we're competing against each other," said Air Force receiver Jalen Robinette, who led the nation in yards per catch in 2016. "Because it's a real big interview/competition there at the combine. And being able to break down the drills and mentally be practicing everything, it's awesome. Literally every day I hear new stuff about the combine that they teach me here.

"Preparation is everything."

They pretty much follow the same basic program because they'll be doing the same tests at the combine. But the training is also personalized by position.

"I'll talk to the agents and from the agents' perspective, I'll say, 'What are the scouts telling you that they want to see from your player? Do they want to see them heavier, lighter?" Landow said. "At the end of the day, I don't think you ever go wrong in providing a little bit more mobility, flexibility to an athlete and getting them stronger. More explosive is always the key in this short window so they can really show their best in all their 'measureables.'"

These players have all undergone mock combines, too, where they put all their training together for dry runs to give them a taste of what this week will bring.

"I think it makes the hugest difference," Roullier said. "If I were to go in there and do this stuff cold, I mean, I'd have an idea of what I'd be doing because it's all stuff that I've done in the past. But my technique would be just awful, you know, it's just all these little things that you need to change and I'm able to get coached up on all of them. It's just continuing to improve those little things and it makes a huge difference in the numbers."

This training isn't cheap. It can cost tens of thousands of dollars, although the pricing structure changes for draft wannabes and sure bets.

"If an athlete is an NFL combine invite, the agent will pay for everything," Landow said. "If you have a kid who may be a bubble guy who didn't get the combine invite but you know can play, the agents will typically foot the bill. Some guys if they're a priority free agent maybe at best, sometimes it's coming out of their own pocket."

For a combine invitee, the cost can run into the tens of thousands of dollars.

"I know with housing and food and all that it ends up being like 10, 20 grand that my agent's dropping just in these few months up to the combine. So, it's a lot," said Roullier, who's out to ensure this week that the training pays big dividends.

Salary cap for 2017 season is $167 million, up $12 million

NEW YORK (AP)—The NFL salary cap for the upcoming season will be $167 million per team, up more than $12 million over last year.

The league and the NFL Players Association compile the cap from specific revenues, and it has risen annually. It was $143.28 million two years ago.

This is the fourth consecutive year the cap has risen at least $10 million.

Player benefits also are included under the 10-year labor agreement reached to end the 2011 lockout. That comes to $37 million per team, bringing the players' total compensation package to over $200 million per club for the first time.

In comparison, baseball had 12 teams with luxury-tax payrolls beyond $167 million in 2016.

Since 2011, the cap has increased by $47 million.

Also, 2017 is the first year of a four-season minimum spending period of 89 percent per club and 95 percent leaguewide.

The added cap room should have a major impact on teams' spending when the NFL's new year begins next Thursday.

"A lot," Seahawks general manager John Schneider said Wednesday at the NFL combine in Indianapolis. "It's an ongoing process, trying to make sure you can hang on to your top players all the time, what we view as our core players. A lot of times when we do those deals we're like: 'Hey, look, there's going to be some tough decisions that are made. There's going to be some guys that have to leave.' It's just part of the game.

"This year in particular I think you see there's a huge discrepancy in terms of cap space with a number of teams. It's what the NFL's about. It's about parity, and so you have those teams that are just going to be able to that much more than you possibly can. It's all about trying to move those pieces around and try to stay in the game with the free agents and your own free agents as much as you possibly can."

Seven players were given franchise tags this year: Redskins QB Kirk Cousins and Rams CB Trumaine Johnson, both for the second straight year; Steelers RB Le'Veon Bell; Giants DE Jason Pierre-Paul; Cardinals LB Chandler Jones; Chargers LB Melvin Ingram; and Panthers DT Kawann Short. Only Cousins and Bell got exclusive tags, meaning no team can talk to them except their current club. Compensation would go to any team losing a non-exclusive franchise player in the form of two first-round draft picks.

Quarterback, of course, has the highest franchise tag tender at $21.268 million. Next is defensive end ($16.934 million), followed by wide receiver ($15.682 million). Then it's linebacker ($14.550 million), offensive line ($14.271 million), cornerback ($14.212 million), defensive tackle ($13.387 million), running back ($12.120 million), safety ($10.896 million), tight end ($9.78 million) and kicker/punter ($4.835 million).

Pittsburgh GM Kevin Colbert believes more teams are taking the path the Steelers usually do of developing players they draft and rewarding their own free agents.

"As a result, you're seeing less and less quality free agents (on the market)," Colbert said. "There's an inherent danger in that, because some of the players who are hitting the market with the number of dollars that are available might not be quite worth what they're going to get paid because of the supply and demand. And I think that's reflective in a lot of the early cuts, the five- and six-year-deal guys who usually get cut after two or three, because maybe they were oversigned.

"I think that it reinforces that you're wanting to sign your own and keep your own. But again, you have to be careful about the free agent market and not overpay for maybe an average player."

Yet, beginning next week, the money will flow to many free agents, even though this crop seems lacking in franchise-type players.

White Sox's Abreu to jury: I ate fake passport on way to US

MIAMI (AP)—Chicago White Sox first baseman Jose Abreu told a Miami federal jury Wednesday that he ate a chunk of a fake passport while flying to the U.S. to cover up his illegal travel as part of a Cuban ballplayer smuggling operation.

Abreu testified he ordered a beer on an Air France flight from Haiti to Miami and slowly consumed the page containing a false name and his photo. Abreu said he traveled illegally because he was worried he would miss an October 2013 deadline and lose the $68 million contract he later signed with Chicago.

"If I had not been there on that particular day, the deadline, then the contract would not be executed and would no longer be valid," Abreu told jurors. "We had to be in Chicago to sign the contract."

The testimony came in the trial of Florida-based sports agent Bartolo Hernandez and baseball trainer Julio Estrada, who are accused of alien smuggling and conspiracy. They allegedly operated a ring that took Cuban players from the communist-governed island to third countries where they could sign lucrative Major League Baseball contracts once they established residency.

AP

Chicago White Sox first baseman Jose Abreu, center, leaves federal court during a break, Wednesday, March 1, 2017 in Miami.

Abreu, who was American League Rookie of the Year in 2014, testified under a grant of limited immunity for his illegal conduct—meaning he won't be prosecuted if he tells the truth on the witness stand. Several other Cuban players have also testified, including Adeiny Hechavarria of the Miami Marlins and Leonys Martin of the Seattle Mariners.

Abreu told jurors that he got the fake passport in Haiti, where he had been taken along with his family from Cuba by speedboat in August 2013. His main contact and fixer there was Amin Latouff, he said, a man who was indicted along with Hernandez and Estrada but who has not been arrested.

Red Sox newcomer Chris Sale tunes up for spring debut

Even a spring tuneup for Chris Sale drew a nice crowd.

The Boston newcomer threw a two-inning simulated game Wednesday morning in preparation for his first spring training action, saying "everything is going as planned."

Sale stayed at camp in Fort Myers, Florida, while the Red Sox traveled to Sarasota to face the Orioles. The lefty ace faced teammates Dan Butler and Steve Selsky, with catcher Sandy Leon behind the plate and fellow pitchers David Price and Steven Wright watching from the third base dugout.

Sale then threw to three additional batters as pitching coach Carl Willis, vice president of pitching development and assistant pitching coach Brian Bannister looked on along with former Red Sox pitcher Tim Wakefield.

"Felt good," Sale said. "Today was a good work day. Great to pitch on the game mound with no screen. Everything went well."

Acquired Dec. 6 from the retooling Chicago White Sox for four top prospects, Sale threw 38 pitches. There was some solid contact in the first inning, when Butler lined what would have been a single to center.

"Threw all of my pitches," Sale said. "In the second inning focusing mostly on fastball/change-up. Those are my feel pitches, so I just wanted to throw those more, just for repetition.'"

Sale is slated to start Monday against Houston in West Palm Beach.

"I think I was ready on Dec. 7," Sale said. "I've been preparing for this, so I'm feeling good."

The left-hander, who turns 28 on March 30, is part of a rotation that includes reigning AL Cy Young winner Rick Porcello and Price, who won the prize in 2012.

EARLY

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Tenorio had the fastest time in the 50m butterfly with his 32.61 seconds, which was more than two seconds better than his old PBT of 35.92. Two more swimmers in Tenorio's age group (11 to 12) earned PBTs with SSC's Jinnosuke Suzuki and Taiyo Akimaru clocking in at 33.95 seconds and 36.76 seconds, respectively.

In the boys 9 to 10 division, Hans Xu was the lone swimmer to post a PBT (36.48 seconds), while Aasish Dangol did the same in the boys U8 with his 36.47 seconds.

In the girls 11 to 12, all three entries gained PBTs with Tsunami Saipan's Nanaka Watanabe and Asaka Litulumar timing in at 39.74 and 42.80 seconds, respectively, and Ayumi Obligacion logging 47.38. Two more Tsunami Saipan swimmers registered PBTs with Ashley Dangol and Shoko Litulumar recording 33.10 and 48.40 in the girls 9 to 10, while SSC's Savite Sikkel had the similar feat with her 54.79 seconds.

Savita's brother Moshe also got a PBT in the 50m backstroke after checking in at 1:02.47 in the boys U8 race. Aasish and Kouki Watanabe competed in the same age group and had PBTs of 46.11 and 50.43 seconds, respectively.

Other PBT getters in the boys division were 11 to 12's Tenorio (33.44 seconds), Jinnosuke (35.85 seconds), and Taiyo Akimaru (40.45 seconds) and 9 to 10's Isaiah Aleksenko (37.29 seconds), Xu (38.82 seconds), and Takeru Jim (57.69 seconds).

In the girls division, Ashley was the fastest in the 50m backstroke sprint after her PBT of 35.77 seconds, while Savita earned her second PBT after timing in at 50.93 in the same race. Nanaka Watanabe (39.39 seconds) and Asaka Litulumar (46.19 seconds) were the other PBT getters in the event.

In the 100m butterfly, SSC's Kento Akimaro led the PBT getters with his 1:03.99, while his teammate Lennosuke Suzuki also got a PBT (1:09.54). Aika Watanabe (1:21.84), Gauran (1:33.07), and Nelson Batallones (1:09.62) completed the list of swimmers with PBTs in the two-lap swim.

STAR WATER

From Page 32

on a high note after downing Triple J, 76-69, while the latter ended up winless in the preliminary round after losing to McDonald's last Wednesday.

McDonald's 93-75 rout of Triple J gave the fastfood chain a 3-4 card in the pool.

McDonald's set up the easy win after scoring 20-plus points in each quarter. Michael Achas torched Triple J after sizzling for 41 points, 12 of them came from the 3-point area.

In the GPPC-Triple J tiff, the former recovered from a slow start and took control of the match in the third period for the 10-point win. GPPC was behind at the end of the first period, 11-17, and then forced a standoff in the second, 30-all, before establishing a twin-digit spread after the third, 54-43. Triple J tried to reclaim the upper hand, but failed as Alex Ocampo regained his shooting touch in the fourth, scoring 12 points to finish off their foe.

Star Water 77 – Gallardo 26, Dizon 15, Itaas 7, Santos 7, Ombac 6, Gille 4, Quiban 4, Brel 4, Rojas 2, Cabiles 2.

Mobil/COAG 67 – Almario 28, Agustin 14, Cisnero 13, Pelisamen 8, Pascual 2, Aguilar 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-21, 22-40, 54-50, 77-67.

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 32

when Dylan Mister made it to the board in the 50th minute. Paire has yet to win this season, losing two matches and drawing one.

TanHoldings 2, Matansa 2

In the first match in the division, TanHoldings forced a draw against Matansa.

Taka Borja drilled the game-tying goal in the 43rd minute, eight minutes after Lolobeyong Benito put Matansa on top. Benito also delivered the other goal for Matansa in the sixth minute, while Oliver Fajardo logged the other goal for TanHoldings in the 32nd.

TanHoldings and Matansa now have similar 1-1-1 slates.

CO-ED U12 TanHoldings 9, Matansa 5

TanHoldings also triumphed in the boys U12 game last weekend at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Anthony John Bergancia nailed five goals for TanHoldings, which improved its record to 2-0-1 for second place in the team standings behind the unbeaten Kanoa-1 (2-1-0). Bergancia started his outstanding showing against Matansa by knocking in back-to-back goals in the sixth and eighth minute. His last three were registered in the 42nd minute, 51st, and 61st.

Mark Joseph Roque chipped in three goals for TanHoldings, while Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez added one.

Chanyang Woo led Matansa's losing cause with his four goals, while Aleac Megino scored the other goal for the team's season-debut match.

MP United 8, Kanoa-1 8

In the other game in the division, MP United rallied in the second half to engage Kanoa-1 in a draw.

MP United (1-1-1), staring at a 2-5 deficit at halftime, fought back in the second half behind Garrett Weaver and Christopher Pascual's three goals apiece. Ryan Pangelinan and Leo Takahashi logged the two goals for MP United in the first half.

Sean Gil and Andrew Sablan made two goals each for Kanoa in the first half, while Martin Park contributed one. In the second half, Gil added three more.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	39	22	.639	—
Toronto	36	25	.590	3
New York	25	36	.410	14
Philadelphia	22	38	.367	16½
Brooklyn	10	49	.169	28
Southeast Division				
Washington	36	23	.610	—
Atlanta	34	26	.567	2½
Miami	28	33	.459	9
Charlotte	26	34	.433	10½
Orlando	22	39	.361	15
Central Division				
Cleveland	41	18	.695	—
Indiana	31	30	.508	11
Chicago	30	30	.500	11½
Detroit	29	32	.475	13
Milwaukee	26	33	.441	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	46	13	.780	—
Houston	43	19	.694	4½
Memphis	36	25	.590	11
Dallas	24	36	.400	22½
New Orleans	24	37	.393	23
Northwest Division				
Utah	37	24	.607	—
Oklahoma City		35	25	.583
1½				
Denver	28	33	.459	9
Minnesota	25	36	.410	12
Portland	24	35	.407	12
Pacific Division				
x-Golden State	50	10	.833	—
L.A. Clippers	36	24	.600	14
Sacramento	25	36	.410	25½
L.A. Lakers	19	42	.311	31½
Phoenix	18	42	.300	32

x-clinched playoff spot

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Westbrook, OKC	60	606	527	1872	31.2
Thomas, BOS	57	522	458	1686	29.6
Harden, HOU	62	504	578	1783	28.8
Davis, NOR	57	589	401	1608	28.2
DeRozan, TOR	54	535	411	1502	27.8
Cousins, SAC	55	505	423	1528	27.8
Lillard, POR	54	462	342	1406	26.0
Leonard, SAN	54	466	356	1396	25.9
James, CLE	55	528	264	1415	25.7
Durant, GOL	59	528	326	1494	25.3
Curry, GOL	59	491	251	1466	24.8
Irving, CLE	53	486	211	1308	24.7
Towns, MIN	61	568	259	1464	24.0
Butler, CHI	54	399	433	1295	24.0
Anthony, NYK	60	511	255	1406	23.4
Wiggins, MIN	61	528	294	1426	23.4
McCollum, POR	59	515	201	1375	23.3
Antetokounmpo, MIL	58	485	336	1346	23.2
Walker, CHA	59	473	234	1345	22.8
Lowry, TOR	56	403	284	1275	22.8

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Jordan, LAC	293	420	.698
Capela, HOU	251	388	.647
Howard, ATL	286	446	.641
Gobert, UTA	275	431	.638
Gortat, WAS	308	523	.589
Jokic, DEN	341	592	.576
Adams, OKC	290	510	.569
Kanter, OKC	280	504	.556
Whiteside, MIA	392	706	.555
Valanciunas, TOR	291	537	.542

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Whiteside, MIA	56	204	585	789	14.1
Drummond, DET	60	253	580	833	13.9
Jordan, LAC	60	216	601	817	13.6
Howard, ATL	55	230	476	706	12.8
Gobert, UTA	61	233	541	774	12.7
Towns, MIN	61	221	525	746	12.2
Davis, NOR	57	128	547	675	11.8
Chandler, PHX	47	153	385	538	11.4
Gortat, WAS	59	188	478	666	11.3
Love, CLE	46	115	395	510	11.1

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Harden, HOU	62	698	11.3
Wall, WAS	57	620	10.9
Westbrook, OKC	60	615	10.2
James, CLE	55	489	8.9
Rubio, MIN	55	475	8.6
Teague, IND	61	493	8.1
Green, GOL	57	417	7.3
Holiday, NOR	46	336	7.3
Lowry, TOR	56	386	6.9
Rondo, CHI	51	331	6.5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Basketball League

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Top Development. Inc.'s Alain Reyes slips past CTSI/D&Q defenders for a fastbreak layup during their regular season game in the JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Star Water's Ronald Rojas, right, is pressured by Coca-Cola/Subway's Bernard Estoque.

TanHoldings' Dindo Pablo is surrounded by Triple J defenders.

Westco and D&Q/CTSI players battle for the rebound.

Docomo's Robert Sanciangco, right, drives baseline against Best Deal/RNV Construction's Joseph Corong.

Coca-Cola/Subway's Joe Fejeran, center, challenges the defense of two Konstrak Builders players.

GPPC's Randy Mungal pulls up for a jumper in front of two Commonwealth Utilities Corp. defenders.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Eugene Manglona, right, goes for an off-balance shot after colliding with GPPC's Randy Mungcal.

Thomas, Celtics overcome Cavs, James' triple-double

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White Sox's Abreu to jury: I ate fake passport on way to US

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Back-to-back wins for Star Water

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Star Water's Edwin Santos, left, tries to keep the ball away from Coca-Cola/Subway's Edward Armia during an earlier game in the JEM/Mobil caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Star Water pulled off a come-from-behind 77-67 victory against Mobil/COAG in the second game in the JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

A second-half surge allowed Star Water to overhaul an 18-point halftime deficit and gain its second straight win after a 0-3 start in the Pool B division of the 16-team league. Star Water took its first win last Monday after slipping past Westco, 63-61.

Against Mobil/COAG, Star Water fell behind, 22-40, after the first half but a 32-point explosion by the latter in the third period wiped out the former's double-digit advantage. Melvin Gallardo rallied Star Water back in the pivotal third after firing 14 points. He drew ample support from Rommel Dizon and Jun Itaas, who combined for 14 markers in the penultimate frame to put Star Water on top, 54-50.

Star Water never relinquished the driver's seat from thereon, as Gallardo continued to hit his target, adding 10 more points in the final canto. He finished with 26 points, nearly doubling his output (14) in their 2-point victory against Westco last Monday.

Versus Westco, Dizon was the top scorer for Star Water with his 21 markers, including the squad's last 4 points.

With Star Water notching back-to-back wins, it moved to fifth spot in the team standings, bumping off D&Q/CTSI (2-4), while Mobil/COAG remained in seventh place with its 1-5 slate.

In other results, GPPC finished its assignment in Pool A

See STAR WATER on Page 30

Shirley's FC stuns Kanoa in U14 game

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kanoa Football Club's Jaydee Jose faces three Shirley's Football Club players as he eyes the ball off a corner kick during their boys U14 division game in the NMIFA youth league last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Brandon Tenorio completed a hat trick to lift Shirley's Football Club to a 3-2 upset over Kanoa FC in the boys U14 division of the 2017 NMIFA Youth Spring League last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

The victory put Shirley's on the win column after it dropped its first two games of the season and also gave the team its first triumph dating back to the fall tournament last year. Kanoa, which finished second to TanHoldings in the 2016 fall competition, fell to a 1-1-1 win-draw-loss record.

Tenorio scored his first two goals in a span of five minutes to give Shirley's a 2-1 halftime edge. He got his first goal in the 20th minute and the second in the 25th, while Merrick Toves put Kanoa on the board in the 10th.

Kanoa then equalized in the 50th minute, thanks to Jaydee Jose's conversion. However, Shirley's quickly got the lead back when Tenorio completed his string of three goals in the 53rd minute and his squad hung on tight on defense in the remainder of the match to take the win.

MP United 5, Paire 1

MP United kept the division lead after beating Paire for its third victory in as many games.

Rohan Basnet anchored MP United's easy win over Paire after firing three consecutive goals. He started his streak in the 17th minute, while his last two goals came in the 38th and 43rd. Rintaro Miyawaki provided support to Basnet with his two goals that were recorded in the seventh and 12th minute.

Paire avoided a shutout

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 30

Early PBT rush in pentathlon meet

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Swim Club's Lennosuke Suzuki is among the PBT getters in the 100m butterfly event in the 2017 Saipan Swim Club Pentathlon Meet held last Feb. 18 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

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REPORTER

Thirty personal best times were recorded just in the first three events in the 2017 Saipan Swim Club Pentathlon Meet held last Feb. 18 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Of this PBT rush, 14 were made in the 50m backstroke, five in the 100m butterfly, and 11 in the 50m butterfly.

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Juhn

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